Literary Criticism Sample Outline

I. Introduction

i. Background info for *Lord of the Flies* / main points related to the ideas within the critique

ii. Background info for critique / author’s argument (thesis)

iii. Your thesis statement about the validity/invalidity of the ideas presented within the critique (including 2-3 supporting reasons)

II. Body Paragraph(s)

i. Topic sentence – what reason(s) from your thesis will you discuss in this paragraph?

ii. Evaluation and analysis of specific evidence / examples from the critique that support your reasoning

iii. Make sure to connect all evidence back to your argument about the validity/invalidity of the ideas presented within the critique; do not simply summarize the author’s argument or list examples

\*\*\*Properly cite all quoted and/or paraphrased material, and use transitional words or phrases to move amongst and between ideas

III. Conclusion

i. Reword your thesis statement

ii. Summarize the main points from your body paragraphs

iii. Explain / Describe the significance or value of your argument and/or the topic itself; why should the reader care about what you’re saying? You can also make connections to the world at large / impact on society or literature, etc.