

Dear Students,

The time has come to start to reflect upon *Watchmen*. In a formal essay of 4-6 pages, please respond to one of the prompts below. For this assignment, you may use in-text citations, like this: (Moore and Gibbons, 23), or simply (23), if the only source you utilize is from the novel. Along these lines, unless you feel the need, you don't need to include other sources to inform your analysis.

1. Morally ambiguous characters — characters whose behavior discourages readers from identifying them as purely evil or purely good — are at the heart of many works of literature. From *Watchmen*, choose a morally ambiguous character who plays a pivotal role. Then write a well-written essay in which you explain how the character can be viewed as morally ambiguous and why his or her moral ambiguity is significant to the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.
2. Works of literature often depict acts of betrayal. Friends and even family may betray a protagonist; main characters may likewise be guilty of treachery or may betray their own values. *Watchmen* includes such acts of betrayal. In a well-written essay, analyze the nature of the betrayal and show how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.
3. Choose a specific inanimate object depicted in *Watchmen* that is important to the work as a whole. In a well-written essay, show how two or three of the purposes the object serves are related to one another.
4. The significance of a title such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is easy to discover. However, in other works the full significance of the title becomes apparent to the reader only gradually. Show how the significance of *Watchmen*'s title is developed through the author's use of devices such as contrast, repetition, allusion, and point of view.
5. An effective literary work does not merely stop or cease; it concludes. In the view of some critics, a work that does not provide the pleasure of significant "closure" has terminated with an artistic fault. A satisfactory ending is not, however, always conclusive in every sense; significant closure may require the reader to abide with or adjust to ambiguity and uncertainty. In an essay, discuss the ending of *Watchmen*. Explain precisely how and why the ending appropriately or inappropriately concludes the work. Do not merely summarize the plot.