

# TWO SAMPLE ESSAY OUTLINES

A literary essay and a research paper

## LITERARY ESSAY:

This outline is based on a literary essay written on James Joyce's short story "The Dead."

**Thesis:** Through an analysis of **Gabriel's conversation with Lily, his speech at the dinner table, and his thoughts when observing the snow falling all over Ireland**, one can argue that Gabriel ultimately alienates himself from his modern ideas.

- I. **Gabriel's assumptions about Lily due to her gender and social class lead him to realize that he may not be as progressive as he would like to be.**
  1. Gabriel talks to Lily, who is working class, suggesting he does not support class distinctions.
  2. His assumption that Lily must marry because she is not in school reveals his classism and sexism.
    - a. **Evidence:** He supposes he will see Lily at her "wedding [...] with [her] young man" (Joyce 6).
    - b. **Analysis:** Gabriel implies that since she has little money, her only option is to find a man to support her.
  
- II. **During his speech at the dinner table, Gabriel further alienates himself from his unconventional ideas by promoting nationalist and traditional ones.**
  1. Gabriel is prepared to express his modern ideas, but does the opposite, glorifying Irish traditions.
    - a. **Evidence:** He calls Irish hospitality "a unique tradition [...] among the modern nations" (14).
    - b. **Analysis:** Instead of showing his disdain for nationalism, he depicts himself as a staunch patriot.
  2. His word choice also shows he has consciously alienated himself from his progressive ideas.
    - a. **Evidence:** He unknowingly repeats the words "country" and "tradition" in his speech (14).
    - b. **Analysis:** These word choices reveal he cannot let himself express progressive ideas.
  
- III. **As Gabriel contemplates the snow falling from his hotel window, he realizes that living by progressive principles in Ireland is an impossibility.**
  1. A weather report declares "snow was general all over Ireland" (20).
    - a. **Evidence:** The snow renders the various locations of Ireland indistinguishable.
    - b. **Analysis:** Gabriel has an epiphany: progressive people are like the Irish landscape, while the snow is analogous to the predominantly conservative population.
  2. Gabriel realizes there is no way for him to live a progressive lifestyle in early twentieth-century Ireland.

Source: Fisher, Sam. "An Analysis of Gabriel's Self-Estrangement in James Joyce's 'The Dead.'" *Dawson English Journal*, no. 7, Winter 2016, <https://www.dawsonenglishjournal.ca/issue/issue-7/>.



# THE OUTLINE

Continued

## RESEARCH PAPER:

**Thesis:** The government of the Progressive Development Party under Moses Zumboddi brought major improvements to social conditions in Fahrawai between 1965 and 1975.

### I. Social conditions in Fahrawai before 1965 were poor.

1. Poverty was extreme and widespread.
  - a. Famine was common in rural areas.
  - b. Low wages and unemployment affected the urban working class.
2. Housing and basic facilities were inadequate.
  - a. Many rural people still lived in mud huts.
  - b. Conditions in urban slums were desperate.
  - c. Basic utilities were inadequate.
3. Medical care was limited.
  - a. Hospitals were few and poorly equipped.
  - b. The infant mortality was among the highest in the region.
  - c. The population suffered frequent epidemics.
4. Education was limited to a privileged minority.

### II. Economic development under the Zumboddi government brought social improvements.

1. Financial aid was obtained from foreign governments.
2. Immediate improvements to roads allowed trade to develop.
3. New economic ventures generated jobs and income.
  - a. New mines began production in the interior.
  - b. Efficient fruit plantations were developed.
  - c. Tourism was promoted.

### III. Social conditions were significantly improved within ten years.

1. Basic facilities showed great improvement by 1975.
  - a. Electricity was available in 80% of the country.
  - b. Housing projects had improved many people's lives.
  - c. Sanitation was a national priority, reducing disease.
2. Health care was modernized nationwide.
3. Life expectancy had risen and infant mortality had decreased.
  - a. National vaccination programs reduced epidemics.
  - b. New hospitals and clinics served all regions of the country.
4. Education was effectively promoted.
  - a. Basic education was available to all children.
  - b. Literacy rates had increased nationwide.
  - c. Scholarships allowed students to attend foreign universities.

For more information, contact the Academic Skills Centre.