



Writing Assignment #5: Research Essay

English 1B—Wall

This is original research on your part. There is no need to consult outside sources. However, if you do consult outside sources, be sure to give proper attribution.



Topic

- The topic of this assignment is Helen Hunt Jackson's portrayal of Native Americans in her novel, *Ramona*. Jackson's audience, mainly East-Coast Americans, has inaccurate ideas about Native Americans. Jackson aims to educate them as part of her effort to change cultural attitudes. This assignment will explore how she does this.

Prompt

- Write an essay explaining how Helen Hunt Jackson portrays Native Americans in her novel *Ramona*. Organize your essay around THREE distinct adjectives that describe how she wants to depict these people. Your thesis will be the following sentence, where you supply the adjectives: **In *Ramona*, Helen Hunt Jackson portrays Native Americans as _____, _____, and _____.**

Length

- 4 pages minimum, plus the Works Cited page—typed, double spaced, 12-pt font, with 1" margins all around.

Procedure

- First submit your PROPOSED THESIS in Canvas to ensure your adjectives will work well.
- Once your thesis has been approved, write a first draft and read it aloud.

Heading and Title

- Please follow the example and use the title I am providing ↓ (below)

Introductory Paragraph

- Write a proper **INTRODUCTION** with **HOOK**, a **very brief** SUMMARY of the book (no more than 2-3 sentences), a statement of your PURPOSE (what you intend to accomplish in this essay), and your THESIS.

Body Paragraphs

- Illustrate your three adjectives, *one at a time*, in the same order they are listed in your thesis. Devote **several** (at least three) paragraphs to each adjective. Each paragraph begins with a TOPIC SENTENCE and discusses only ONE example. ↓ (See below)

Professor Wall

English 1B

Month Day, Year

This is the **HEADING** for the front page of your essay.
Don't make it a "header." We don't want this appearing on every page.

The Nobility of Native Americans in Helen Hunt Jackson's *Ramona* (1884)

TOPIC SENTENCES

If one of your adjectives is "hard-working," your paragraphs should begin with **topic sentences** like these:

- Jackson portrays Native Americans as hard-working. For example, ...
- Another place where we see Native Americans as hard-working is when...
- It is also clear that Native Americans are hard-working in the passage where...

When you're ready to discuss Adjective #2, begin with another TOPIC SENTENCE:

- In her novel, Jackson also portrays Native Americans as _____.

Then write another set of paragraphs. Your paragraphs don't have to be long.

This means **you'll have at least nine body paragraphs!**

In each body paragraph, you will provide an example from the text with **in-text citation**.

In these examples, demonstrate your ability to both QUOTE and PARAPHRASE. You will usually need to introduce your quote, explaining who is speaking, to whom, and why.

One key example, of course, will be the character of Alessandro. However, don't use Alessandro for ALL of your examples for any adjective. You should also mention other Native Americans that appear in the novel. Consider also comments made about Native Americans by various characters or by the narrator. Ramona herself is NOT a typical Native American, so it would not help your argument to use her as an example.

Concluding Paragraph

- Write a suitable **CONCLUSION**. **Comment on how your three adjectives help Jackson achieve her purpose in writing this novel.** The conclusion can be quite short, but please DO NOT REPEAT WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY SAID.

Documentation

- For instructions on IN-TEXT CITATIONS and WORKS CITED page, see "**Documenting Ramona**" at DRWALL.ORG >> Writing Assignment #5

Pagination

On this essay, please incorporate MLA page numbering. See DRWALL.ORG for help.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

You have already had a discussion about the benefits of AI and an Academic Dishonesty “quiz” cautioning you about its dangers. If you choose to make use of AI, here are the key points to remember so that you don’t receive a zero on this assignment:

- 1. You don’t HAVE to use AI on this assignment. In fact, if you can avoid using AI, that is always the safer path. However, if writing these essays in English is about as much fun as getting a root canal from the dentist, then go ahead and see if AI can provide you a bit of relief.**
- 2. AI is only a tool. YOU still need to be firmly in charge of what goes in your essay. So make sure that your end product follows the above instructions for this assignment.**
- 3. Double check everything! If your essay contains falsehoods, you can’t blame AI. It’s only a computer that is GUESSING at what you want.**
- 4. Include this sentence at the end of your essay (not on your Works Cited page): **This essay was written with the assistance of (name of AI search engine).** Failure to include this sentence makes you guilty of plagiarism and you will receive a zero on the assignment, but the zero may not appear immediately.**