

AP Literature and Composition  
Formal Literary Analysis  
The Awakening by Kate Chopin

Choose one of the following prompts as the basis for your three page typed paper. Use MLA style and include a Works Cited Page. Specific textual reference (quoted material) is an important aspect of this assignment.

Prompt Selection

1. How does the setting of The Awakening contribute to the overall meaning, which Chopin sought to convey?
2. In Kate Chopin's The Awakening (1899), Protagonist Edna Pontellier is said to possess "that outward existence which conforms, the inward life which questions." Discuss how this tension between outward conformity and inward questioning contributes to the overall meaning of the work.

AP English Literature and Composition  
Scoring Guidelines for Awakening Paper

9-8 These well ordered essays focus tightly on the prompt and explain with clarity and precision the implications of it in the context of the meaning of the work as a whole. They construct a discussion that illuminates both the character and the text. Comprehensive in their grasp, they do not over simplify. Specific textual references and solid literary analysis support their assertion and demonstrate their own facility with language and style.

7-6 These writers provide a clear and coherent discussion focused on the prompt. They address how the issue named contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. They display sound knowledge of the text as well as an ability to order ideas and to write with both clarity and creativity. However, the analysis in these essays is less perceptive, less thorough, and/or less specific than the essays above: neither substance nor style is quite so impressive as the 9-8 essays.

5 These essays provide at least a plausible argument but are often characterized by shallow, unsupported generalizations. The attempt to relate the content to the meaning of the work may be limited or nonexistent. Competent plot summary may substitute for analysis. The writing in these essays may not demonstrate consistent control over the elements of composition.

4-3 These lower half papers convey a less than adequate comprehension of the assignment. Their discussion falters and they do little to explore the implications of the prompt in the context of the meaning of the work. They seldom exhibit compelling authority. Though the essays offer at least a rudimentary argument; support usually depends on unsubstantiated generalizations rather than specific examples. These essays may contain significant misinterpretations and displace analysis with paraphrase or plot summary. The writing may be sufficient to convey some semblance of the writer's ideas, but it reveals only limited control over diction, organization, syntax, or grammar.

2-1 These essays compound the problems of the 4-3 range. They may seriously misread the novel. They may provide little if any clear, coherent argument. They provide impressions rather than analysis. In addition, they are poorly written on several counts, including distracting errors in grammar and mechanics, or they are unacceptably brief. Essays that are especially vacuous, ill organized, illogically argued or mechanically unsound should be scored a one.

0 A response with no more than a reference to the task or one that is off topic