

WRITING ABOUT READING: LITERARY ESSAYS

EXAMPLES OF LEADS WRITTEN FOR ESSAYS

“The desire for love and for money has motivated much of human history. Western literature is filled with novels which address the conflicting feelings a woman and her family feel when the woman must decide between marrying a man she loves and marrying a man who can provide for her financially. Many of the characters in Jane Austin’s novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, personify one view or another of the advantages and limitations of marrying for love rather than for money.”

“I am a lacrosse player. When decisions must be made in the heat of a game, our coach has always told us that the worse thing to do is to stall. It is always better to make a decision, however bad it may be, rather than to freeze in indecision. When I first heard this advice, I was skeptical. Now, after reading Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* and Heller’s *Catch-22*, I understand the wisdom of my coach’s advice. A bad decision is always better than no decision at all, because every decision leads to some amount of progress, even if the progress comes, and in *Hamlet* and *Catch-22*, from mistakes made and lessons learned.”

“Literature often tells the story of underdogs who rise up in the end. ‘The Mighty Ducks’ is the story of a rag-tag hockey team that ends up winning the state championship. Cinderella tells the story of the rejected youngest sister who ends up marrying the prince. ‘The Marble Champ,’ by Gary Soto, is also an underdog story. It tells not only about Lupe winning the marble championship, it also tells that she overcomes her athletic difficulties through hard work and family support.”