***Beloved* Essay Topics 2014**

1. Select a character from *Beloved* who demonstrates **irrational behavior**. In a well-organized essay, analyze how this behavior can be considered reasonable and relate the behavior to the text as a whole.
2. In a novel by William Styron, a father tells his son that life “is a search for **justice**.” Choose a character from a novel or play who responds in some significant way to justice or injustice. Then write a well-developed essay in which you analyze the character’s understanding of justice, the degree to which the character’s search for justice is successful, and the significance of this search for the work as a whole. You may choose a work from the list below or another work of comparable literary merit. Do not merely summarize the plot.
3. The significance of a **title** such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is easy to discover. However, in other works (for example, *Measure for Measure*) the full significance of the title becomes apparent to the reader only gradually. (1971) Choose *a work* and show how the significance of their respective titles is developed through the authors’ use of devices such as contrast, repetition, allusion, and point of view.
4. Choose a specific **death** scene from *Beloved,* and write an essay in which you analyze the significance this scene has on the novel as a whole. Do not just summarize the plot.
5. No act of **violence** exists without a specific purpose or intention. Choose one such scene from *Beloved,* and write a well-organized essay in which you identify the violence and analyze its significance to the text as a whole. Avoid plot summary.
6. The quest for **power** is a strong human drive. Choose a character from *Beloved* who either seeks to gain power over another or seeks to free himself or herself from the power of another. Write an essay in which you illustrate how this power struggle is essential to the meaning of the text. Avoid mere plot summary.
7. Some works of literature use the element of **time** in a distinct way. The chronological sequence of events may be altered, or time may be suspended or accelerated. Choose a novel, an epic, or a play of recognized literary merit and show how the author’s manipulation of time contributes to the effectiveness of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.
8. Select a memorable **scene** from *Beloved*. Then write an essay in which you identify the scene and analyze its effectiveness and its relationship to the text as a whole.
9. Select a character from *Beloved* who serves as the instrument for the **suffering** of others and analyze how this action contributes to the meaning of the text as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.
10. Choose a character from *Beloved* who has to deal with **guilt**. Identify the situation and analyze how effectively the character deals with his or her struggle. Relate this situation to the meaning of the text as a whole, avoiding mere plot summary.