

*The Hobbit*  
Essay  
Take Home Final Draft

Now that you have written the “guts” of the argument, with my comments, it is time to craft it into a more complete essay, with a full introduction and conclusion.

**How do you do this?**

If you need to amend the thesis statement, do that first. The thesis guides and controls the entire essay; make sure you have this solidified before you make other corrections.

Remember that the thesis statement must have the Four Ss (subject, stance, support, and significance). For this essay, you have already been given two of the four.

Subject: Bilbo

Stance: Is a hero because of the choices he makes over the course of his journey.

Most of you already have the three pieces of support. You just need to come up with the significance, or larger relevance, of your argument. This is the “So What?” or the “Why Should I Care?”

AGAIN, REMEMBER: Do not argue that Bilbo is a hero. We have already established that he is, and are working under this premise. He completes Joseph Campbell’s hero’s journey, and in order to do this he had to *learn* something. Think of the quote I gave you: “The hero is the one who comes to know.”

What I’m asking you is to SHOW ME how he “comes to know” through the choices he makes over the course of his journey.

In the introduction, begin generally. A good place to start is with the quote from Campbell. Remember to use the title of the novel and the author’s name.

The conclusion should not merely repeat what’s already been written, but should instead address the significance. *You’ve just made a convincing argument: OK, great. So what?*

Write in the PRESENT TENSE and in the THIRD PERSON. Use transitions to start paragraphs. Try to avoid contractions.

Utilize the time being allotted to you to work on this. Do not wait until the last minute.

Guidelines:

This essay is due on Monday, 28 October.

- a. You will turn in a typed and stapled hardcopy in class. Attach the first draft.
- b. You will submit an EXACT digital copy to Turnitin by the end

\*The essay will not be considered “submitted” unless I receive both a hardcopy and a digital copy.

\*Essays submitted on Tuesday 29 October will receive half-credit. Essays submitted after this will not be accepted, and will receive a zero.

\*If you are absent on the 28<sup>th</sup>, you must still submit the digital copy as normal. Give me the hardcopy on the day you return to class.

A grade will be given according to the following standards:

- a. Clearly demonstrated knowledge of the material, the themes, and the assignment
- b. Proper formatting and presentation
- c. Proper structure (introduction, three body paragraphs, conclusion)
- d. Clear, accurate, and properly structured Thesis Statement
- e. Unity and coherence of body paragraphs (clear and accurate topic sentence; clearly connected analysis [no plot summary])
- f. Standard edited English
- g. Correction of mistakes and obvious improvement from first draft

*The Hobbit* is the only material you may use for this assignment. No outside resources are necessary. Do not use ANYTHING from the Internet. If you do, you will run a serious risk of committing plagiarism. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and an honor code violation. Stick to the book and your brain. Trust yourself.

