

Your writing assignment for Night is to write one (1) really good, strong paragraph focused on one scene – a scene either of goodness and courage or dehumanization and cruelty. You can use one of the scenes you discussed in groups or you can come up with another scene. Your focus will be to do some good literary analysis: what does the scene mean? how does it connect to the themes of the book as a whole? what do you take away from your reading of the scene? how does Wiesel use language to make it effective? This assignment will be good practice for you in preparing to write a full literary analysis essay.

The first step in this assignment is to choose a scene. Pick a scene that is memorable and powerful; find one that is illustrative of Wiesel's purpose in the book. We will talk about themes in class. Most of the specific scenes are short. As an example of a specific scene I mean something like the time Elie gets whipped for seeing Idek with one of the girls. A too-general way to approach this assignment is to say your scene is the treatment of the Jews in Auschwitz or Elie's relationship with his father. Focus very specifically. As always, say a lot about a few things, not a little bit about everything. Re-read your scene; look for details; be an attentive, careful, and thoughtful reader. Ask yourself: how does Wiesel present the scene to make it effective? Decide what Wiesel's point in the scene is: that will become your topic sentence. Then find a sentence or part of a sentence that particularly expresses your understanding of the scene (as we did in class). You will use this selection somewhere in your paragraph.

Then start writing. This is only a paragraph, so you can write a first draft somewhat quickly. Since it is only one paragraph, you will have plenty of time to re-think, re-write, revise. This assignment will encourage you to do what I want you always to do: write multiple drafts! Use what we have talked about to make this your best writing. Read your writing out loud. Craft really good sentences. Use details to support and illustrate your good ideas. Make good connections. Think deeply. I am purposely making this is a short assignment so you can give a lot of time to your thinking and writing.

Of course, as with all your writing, giving time to this assignment will help you become an even better writer. But the assignment will also give you some good practice and experience with other important skills: close reading; using quotations to illustrate ideas; writing a bibliography; doing good literary analysis. We will work a little on the assignment in class; then you will have time to write at home. Start early. Give time to the thinking and writing. Remember: good writing is good thinking. Remember to name the title and author in the first sentence. Write in the present tense. Your paragraph should be about 1 page typed or 3-4 sides handwritten, double-spaced either way. The assignment is worth **100 points**. It is due **Monday, 17 December**. Do your best. I have two sample paragraphs on the reverse of this sheet.

At the bottom of your page, be sure to include this information as your Bibliography:

Wiesel, Elie. Night. Translated by Marion Wiesel. New York: Hill and Wang, 2006.