

***Lord of the Flies* MLA Information**

Background: As begin our unit on the *Lord of the Flies*, we must first discuss the topics available to you for your final, 5-7 page MLA paper due in approximately four to five (4-5) weeks. Please see Mr. Hampton directly or email (jonathan.hampton@marion.k12.fl.us) with any questions.

MLA Checklist (see *Workbook* for more information):

- ☐ 12-point Times New Roman font
- ☐ Double-space entire essay (including heading and Works Cited)
- ☐ Set margins to 1-inch on all sides
- ☐ Indent first line of paragraphs OR include extra break between paragraphs
- ☐ A title and header with your information
- ☐ A header with your information and a running header with last name and page numbers
- ☐ A thesis statement (see *MLA Planning Sheet* for help)
- ☐ Use of citations to support analysis
- ☐ A "Works Cited" page

Upload Instructions:

1. Proceed to <http://www.schoolology.com>
2. Login with your information
3. Click "Compositions" → "*Lord of the Flies* MLA Paper"
4. On the right, click "Submit Assignment"
5. Make sure your paper is in .doc or .docx format (I cannot read .odt, .txt, .wpd files)
6. Attach file and upload your paper

Topics: Use the information below to help you select a topic. Before you begin writing, recall our Unit Essential Question (UEQ): "How can I think and write like a college student?" Thus, all of your topic choices will relate to thinking and writing like college students do. Your exploration of writing like a college student will also require you to use one of the critical lenses ("criticisms") we have applied to the *Lord of the Flies*. Try to select a topic that interests you personally; a well-constructed paper is both easier for you to work on and more pleasurable for me to read. If you feel led to create your own topic, see Hampton *before* you begin writing.

1. *Formalist Criticism:* If you can think back to our first unit, *Language Analysis*, you will likely remember that, for the most part, authors choose every word on purpose. Nearly every word that an author chooses will have a deeply connotative meaning behind it. Thus, for this paper topic, your primary concern will be choosing three or four sections of text that you feel are highly connotative and worthy of analysis. I am not looking for a specific word count of the sections you choose, but your paper must be 5-7 pages. Do try and remember that the goal of formalist criticism is not just selecting and explaining connotative words, but explaining how they affect the tone or mood of the passage as a whole.

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2. *Historical Criticism*: Walter Landor once said that “every great writer is a writer of history” and thus is shaped by the hopes, fears, biases, attitudes, and limitations of the time period in which they are writing. In this topic choice, your task will be to examine and analyze the *Lord of the Flies* using a historical lens. How you examine the novel is entirely up to you, but you will definitely want to start with researching the historical time period of the novel and see where that leads—online research is fine, as long as it’s cited appropriately. Historically speaking, keep in mind that World War II was deeply on the American conscience—is this novel simply a metaphor or allegory for going off to and fighting a war, or something else entirely?
3. *Philosophical Criticism*: In the early 1700’s, philosophers began mulling over an age-old question: “where does evil come from?” If you’re clever and religious, you might reply “from the devil.” But, on further inspection, you’ll realize that in religious texts, God created the devil; thus, is God part evil as well, since he created an “evil” thing? This recurring question gave rise to a new term called theodicy, which is an attempt to discover the origins of evil. Using this criticism on the *Lord of the Flies*, you will attempt to argue where evil comes from on the island and what factors allow it to germinate among the boys.
4. *Genre Criticism*: This criticism is primarily concerned with applying a category or classification to the text to see how it compares and contrasts. For example, if I’m reading a romance novel, I might compare and contrast it to other romance novels in that genre. The genres at your disposal are endless, but for this paper topic, I’ll ask that you take the *Lord of the Flies* and attempt to compare and contrast it to the Christian *Bible*. If you haven’t thought about it until now, perhaps you should—did you know that the phrase “lord of the flies” comes from the Bible? Did you find the boys “fall” from the plane remarkably like Adam and Eve’s “fall from paradise” in “Genesis”? Did you perhaps see Simon as a Christ-figure or Jack as the Devil? In whatever way you wish to proceed, your paper should select one (or perhaps two) elements to compare/contrast the *Lord of the Flies* to the *Bible*.
5. Choose your own topic. Please see Hampton to discuss your idea for your own topic.