

College Academic Template PDF – Detailed Guide

Overview

For **undergraduate and graduate students**, this template reflects **scholarly standards**: theoretical engagement, rigorous analysis, proper citation, and original argumentation. It prepares students for academic publishing or upper-level coursework.

Template Structure

1. Introduction (150–200 words)

Purpose: Frame the book within scholarly discourse and present a sophisticated argument.

Structure:

- **Hook:** Theoretical quote, critical debate, or historical context.

Example: “In *The Madwoman in the Attic*, Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar argue that 19th-century women writers faced an ‘anxiety of authorship.’”

- **Bibliographic & Scholarly Context:** Full citation, genre, academic relevance.

Example: “Charlotte Brontë’s 1847 novel *Jane Eyre* has long been read through feminist, postcolonial, and psychoanalytic lenses.”

- **Thesis:** Nuanced, contestable, and multi-layered.

Example: “This review argues that while *Jane Eyre* pioneers a female narrative voice, its colonial subtext—particularly the characterization of Bertha Mason—complicates its feminist legacy, requiring a postcolonial rereading that acknowledges both its breakthroughs and blind spots.”

2. Summary (200–250 words)

Purpose: Summarize with attention to narrative technique, themes, and scholarly conversation.

Structure:

- **Paragraph 1:** Plot overview + narrative method.

Example: “*Jane Eyre* follows its eponymous heroine from orphaned childhood to governess at Thornfield Hall, where she falls in love with the mysterious Mr. Rochester. Brontë employs a first-person retrospective voice, blending Gothic romance with social critique.”

- **Paragraph 2:** Key themes and critical concerns.

Example: “The novel engages questions of gender, class, morality, and colonialism, the latter embodied in the figure of Bertha, the Creole wife imprisoned in the attic.”

3. Evaluation Sections (3–4 sections, 700–1,000+ words total)

Each section = 200–350 words, organized by analytical categories, not plot.

Section 1: Narrative Voice & Feminist Agency

Example: “Jane’s first-person narration asserts female subjectivity in a patriarchal society. Her famous declaration—‘I am no bird; and no net ensnares me’ (Ch. 23)—functions as a manifesto of selfhood. Critics like Gilbert and Gubar read this as a triumph of female authorship...”

Section 2: Gothic Elements & Psychological Depth

Example: “Thornfield Hall operates as a Gothic space where repressed secrets surface. Bertha Mason is both literal and symbolic madwoman, challenging Jane’s—and the reader’s—sense of safety and sanity...”

Section 3: Colonial Critique & Limits of Feminism

Example: “Jean Rhys’s *Wide Sargasso Sea* famously re-centers Bertha, exposing the colonial

underpinnings of Brontë's England. Rochester's wealth derives from Jamaican plantations, and Bertha's demonization reflects Victorian racial anxieties..."

Section 4: Style & Legacy

Example: "Brontë's prose blends realism with poetic intensity, influencing later writers from Woolf to Carter. Yet the novel's enduring power lies in its contradictions—it champions female independence while reinforcing imperial hierarchies..."

4. Recommendation (125–150 words)

Purpose: Speak to scholarly and pedagogical usefulness.

Structure:

- Contribution to field
- Ideal courses or readers
- Comparative texts
- Limitations for certain uses

Example:

"*Jane Eyre* remains indispensable for Victorian studies, feminist theory, and narrative courses. Pairing it with *Wide Sargasso Sea* enables productive classroom debate. While its colonial representations date it, its core critique of gender and class continues to resonate. Recommended for advanced undergraduates and scholars."

5. Conclusion (150–175 words)

Purpose: Synthesize argument, acknowledge complexity, and point to further research.

Structure:

- Restate thesis in refined form
- Summarize key findings
- Suggest implications or future directions

Example:

“In final analysis, *Jane Eyre* is a novel of dual legacy: groundbreaking in its feminist voice, yet entangled in the colonial mindset of its time. Its richness lies in this very tension, inviting continual reinterpretation. Future scholarship might further explore its reception in postcolonial contexts or its adaptations in global media.”

6. Works Cited / References

- Full bibliography in MLA, APA, or Chicago style
- Includes primary text + any secondary sources cited
- Alphabetized, hanging indent

Formatting for College

- **Font:** Times New Roman 12pt
- **Spacing:** Double-spaced
- **Margins:** 1 inch
- **Title Page:** If required (APA)
- **Running Head:** APA style if used
- **Page Numbers:** Top right
- **Citations:** Consistent style throughout
- **Word Count:** 1,000–1,500+ words

Scholarly Conventions

- Engagement with existing criticism
- Theoretical framing
- Precise terminology
- Objective tone
- Evidence-based claims
- Metacommentary on one's own argument