

Don Quixote Essay

World Literature

Pick an essay topic from the list below.

1. **Write an outline for your essay.**
2. **Rough draft due, Wednesday, November 17**
Turn in your outline with your rough draft.

Your rough draft should be typed, double spaced.

You must use at least two quotations from the book.

The citation for each quote must be made according to MLA style.

Example: The delusional Don Quixote raced forward “without heeding the cries of his squire Sancho, who warned him that he was not going to attack giants but windmills” (36)

3. **Final draft due, Monday, December 1**
The final draft of your essay must be **typed, double spaced** with 1-inch margins on all sides. Your name and the date should be typed in the top left corner of the page. The title of your essay should be centered and printed in bold type. The title of your essay should NOT be “Don Quixote”. Make your title interesting so people will want to read what you have written.

Essay Topics

1. Don Quixote contains classic elements of Spanish literature. Pick three elements of Spanish literature and provide two examples from the story for each element.
2. Idealism and realism are two major conflicting themes in Don Quixote. Both concepts are represented by its main characters, Don Quixote de La Mancha and his squire, Sancho Panza. Provide examples that show how each character represents his theme.
3. Honors: Is Don Quixote an epic hero or an anti-epic hero? Use the list of epic hero characteristics and examples from the story to explain your opinion.

Your final essay will be graded according to this scale:

Grammar, Spelling, Mechanics	30
Structure (does it follow an outline)	20
Style, word usage	30
Content, completeness, citations	20



Characteristics of Spanish Literature

1. Simple, natural dialog
2. Praise for the country life
3. Love
4. History
5. Religion or mythology
6. Escape from the world around them
7. Fanciful, supernatural elements, mysticism, other worldliness

Characteristics of an Epic Hero

1. Excels in skill, strength, and courage
2. Succeeds in war and adventure
3. Values honor and glory
4. Usually has a guide
5. Battles demons or monsters
6. Is generous to his followers but ruthless to enemies
7. Is a man of action
8. Accepts challenges and sometimes invites problems
9. Sometimes make rash decisions and takes unnecessary risks
10. Meets monsters and temptations
11. Encounters women who tempt him
12. Descends into darkness (often the underworld)
13. Achieves his goal