

Crime and Punishment Essay

Essayist and renowned photographer Susan Sontag writes: “Real art has the capacity to make us nervous.” Indeed, when considered as a work of art, *Crime and Punishment* may do just that: its telling leaves many questions unanswered; leaves many a reader unsettled or “nervous.” The work of literary critics attempts to address or explain some of those ambiguities.

Considering the various stances, perspectives, and interpretations of the novel heard in class over the past few days, compare and contrast the different schools of thought regarding the novel. Drawing from your selected criticism and class notes, write a formal essay in which you compare and contrast the way the critics respond to Dostoyevsky’s novel.

When considering your pieces of criticism on their own and/or in contrast, consider the following:

1. Examine each author’s purpose in writing the essay—to argue a point or to explore a theme, to explain a character...
2. Examine the critical stance from which each author approaches the novel.
3. Examine the questions (direct or implied) that the critic attempts to satisfy within the body of the criticism
4. Examine each author’s claim in the essay—is it stated directly or implied?
5. Examine the evidence each author provides to support his/her claim or main idea.
6. In the conclusion, consider the big questions (so what, who cares, why is this important).

Be sure to focus your argument with a strong, clear thesis, and support your claim with ample evidence from the criticism and your novel.

DETAILS:

Maximum length: 1000 words

Format: MLA, Times-New Roman 12 point font, Double-Spaced

Due Date: Thursday, September 9 in class and on Turnitin.com

ADDITIONAL NOTES: