

Essay 2
Honors 101
Dr. Klodt

Enlightened Being: Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See* (2014)

Search for Identity	Intersection of History & the Individual
Construction of Identity	Outside vs. Inside
Trauma & Identity	Psychology of Oppression
Identity as Product of One's Environment	What Does it Mean to See?
Seeing Oneself	Reality vs. Escapism
Public Life vs. Private Life	Survival of the Fittest
Light & Darkness	Map vs. Territory
Light vs. Darkness	Destiny vs. Free Will
Blindness: Physical and Symbolic	Adolescence vs. Adulthood
What One Learns from Loss	Radio as Symbol
The Cost of Resistance	Role of Communication
The Cost of Compliance	Sea of Flames as Symbol
Art & Beauty	Activity vs. Passivity
Individual & Society	Connections Between Strangers
Individual vs. Society	History as Lived Experience
Familial Bonds	Media Representation
National Family	Representation vs. Reality
Xenophobia	Occupation as Metaphor
War as Metaphor	Good, Evil, and Morality
Education vs. Indoctrination	Science vs. Superstition
Novelistic Style: The Medium is the Message	

A) Thesis

Using one of the above themes, brainstorm a preliminary interpretation of *All the Light We Cannot See*: Based on the theme you have chosen, what message(s) is *All the Light We Cannot See* communicating? What meaning(s) does *All the Light We Cannot See* convey? Based on the theme you have chosen, how do you interpret *All the Light We Cannot See*? It is often helpful to do free writing to get your ideas flowing and to stimulate analytical thinking. Also, developing your Thesis Statement and Preliminary Interpretation in unison often leads to a successful analysis.

1) Write a Cogent Thesis Statement

Write and carefully edit your thesis statement considering the supporting arguments you plan to use and the interpretation you brainstormed above. As we discussed in class, your thesis statement will clearly state the **goal** of your essay, what your essay will **show (or prove)** to your reader, and **forecast the analytical interpretation** at which you will arrive. Review Dr. Klodt's slide deck for developing a successful thesis (klodt.link/thesis101 and linked on jasonklodt.com/101).

2) Preliminary Outline

Write an outline to show how you will structure your essay. Include the main arguments, appropriate details, and examples you will develop to prove your thesis and in what order you will develop these ideas to arrive at your analytical interpretation.

3) Preliminary interpretation

In a few sentences, state the interpretation at which you will arrive. Based on your thesis and the development of your arguments, what message(s) is *All the Light We Cannot See* communicating? What meaning(s) does *All the Light We Cannot See* suggest?

Assume your reader is from the academic community, has a broad life experience, has a university education (i.e., a general knowledge of history, geography, public policy, international affairs, economics, science, technology, religion, literature, art, sports, and popular culture), and has already read and studied the text you are analyzing.

Submit thesis, outline, and interpretation in your [Essays Google Doc](#) (in the Essay 2 Thesis section in your document “LASTNAME Firstname—Essays—Honors 101”) by **Friday 25 September 2020 at 5:00p**. Any submissions or changes to your thesis, outline, or interpretation after the due date and time—as evidenced by the Version History menu—deduct 10% per day from the thesis grade.

B) Essay

Using your thesis statement, outline, and interpretation prepared above, write a cogent, well-structured, analytical essay on *All of the Light We Cannot See*. Use MLA formatting (klodt.link/mlaformat and linked on jasonklodt.com/101). Follow the formatting and content instructions in the “Guide to the Analytical Essay” (klodt.link/essays101 and linked on jasonklodt.com/101).

Prior to submitting your essay, complete the following steps.

1) Identity Your Thesis

A cogent, well defined thesis establishes the **goal** of your essay. It clearly indicates the interpretation you will show (or prove) to your reader and forecasts your analytical conclusion. Identify your **thesis statement** by changing its typeface to **bold**.

2) Identify Your Analytical Conclusion

An analytical interpretation achieves the goal you established in the thesis statement. It articulates the interpretation you have shown (or proven) by revealing a deeper meaning of the text, articulating the message the text is communicating, and deepening the reader’s understanding of the text. Identify your **analytical conclusion** by changing the typeface of that sentence to **bold**.

3) Are You Finished?

Not so fast! The goal of academic writing is to develop your analytical thinking skills. A common pitfall is not achieving university-level analytical thinking that produces a deeper meaning of the text you are studying. Therefore if you cannot easily identify the **thesis** or **analytical interpretation** from steps 1 and 2 above, then you have not finished your essay:

Continue honing your thesis.
Continue editing your ideas.
Continue refining your conclusion.

Academic writing is difficult work requiring considerable time and effort. Never submit a first draft. Carefully review, edit, and polish your essay. Writing is a process: The effort you invest now in careful revisions will yield long-term benefits in your ability to think analytically, write more profoundly, and ultimately earn higher grades.

4) Honors College Pledge

On the last page of your essay, include the Honors College pledge and sign it:

On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given, received, nor witnessed unauthorized help on this essay.

Signature: _____

Your signed Honors College pledge indicates that your essay is finished and Dr. Klodt may grade it.

Submit essay in your [Essays Google Doc](#) (in the Essay 2 section in your document "LASTNAME Firstname—Essays—Honors 101") by **Friday 2 October 2020 at 5:00p**. Any submissions or changes to your essay after the due date and time—as evidenced by the Version History menu—deduct 10% per day from the essay grade.