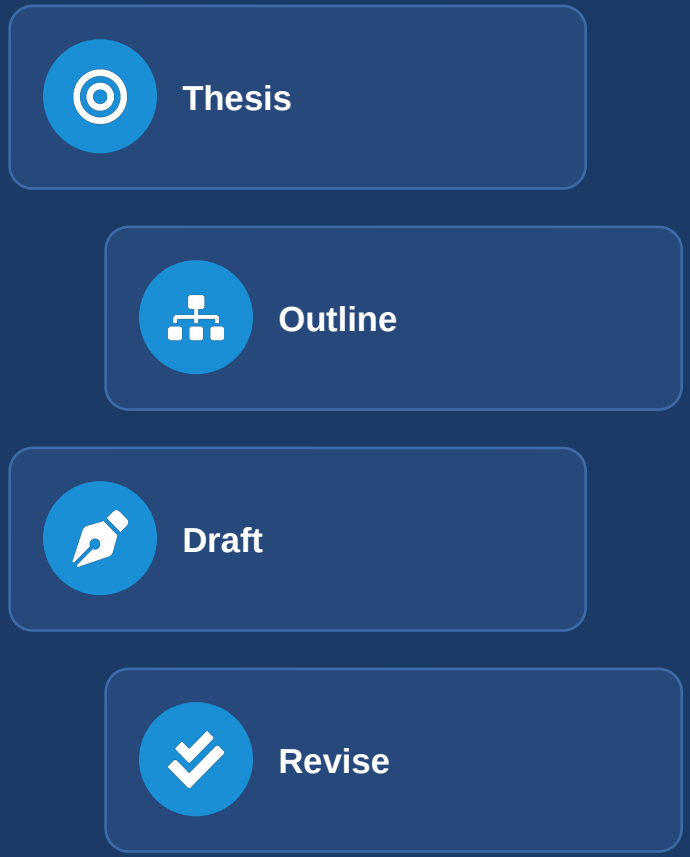
NBE3U Stories Now, Lesson 14

Essay Workshop

From evidence bank to polished literary essay



Today's goals

We are learning…

- To plan and draft a literary essay on a contemporary novel.
- To revise and publish to clear criteria.

I can…

- Write an arguable thesis.
- Organize evidence into a logical outline.
- Integrate short quotations and explain them.
- Revise and edit using the checklist, including terminology.

Today's plan

Time	What we're doing	You will…
0–10 min	**Thesis**	Write
10–25 min	**Outline**	Plan
25–55 min	**Draft**	Write
55–70 min	**Revise**	Peer review
70–75 min	**Plan**	Write

Big idea

A literary essay turns a reader's insight into an argument others can test. Today we build a thesis from our theme statements, organize evidence, and revise and edit toward a published piece that respects the communities and communication styles in the text.

Theme to thesis

Theme statement

- “Survival depends on remembering who you are.”

Thesis

- “Through the narrator's growing use of his grandmother's language, [author] shows that survival depends on remembering who you are.”

A thesis names how the novel makes its meaning.

Essay structure

Part	What it does
Introduction	Author (and Nation, as they name it), novel, year, context, thesis
Body 1–3	Claim, short quotations with pages, explanation, link
Conclusion	Why the argument matters: for readers, identity, Canada

Outline

On page 1:

1. Write your thesis.
2. Three claims that prove it.
3. Two pages of evidence for each.
4. A conclusion: why it matters.

Model body paragraph

Task: Integrated quotation and explanation. (Model on a 1900 historical text.)

Zitkála-Šá shows the school's power through the language of machinery. She calls the daily schedule an “iron routine” and the school itself “the civilizing machine,” so that the children become parts moved by something that cannot see them. The image explains why she “suffer[ed] in silence”: a machine does not hear complaints. Her style turns a timetable into an argument about what assimilation does to a child's voice.

Why it works

Claim first.

Short, integrated quotations.

More explaining than quoting.

Draft a body paragraph

In your notebook or document:

1. Claim.
2. Two short quotations with page numbers.
3. Explain each: how it supports the claim.
4. Link to the thesis.

Respectful writing

Name accurately

The Nation as the author names it.

Don't generalize

This novel, these characters.

Quote accurately

Exact words, page numbers.

Acknowledge limits

What you don't know, say so.

Peer review

Swap with a partner, on page 2:

1. Check each criterion.
2. One strength.
3. One next step.
4. Return and revise.

Integrating quotations

signal phrase	Introduces the quotation. *The narrator admits that…*
blend	Quotation inside your own sentence. *She calls it “the civilizing machine.”*
brackets	Mark a change to fit grammar. *“suffer[ed] in silence”*

Test your thesis

- Could someone disagree?
- Does it name how the novel makes meaning?
- Can three paragraphs prove it?
- Is it about this novel, not all Indigenous literature?

Check yourself

Be honest. This helps you choose what to work on next.

Success criteria	Not yet	Almost	Got it
I can write an arguable thesis.			
I can organize evidence into a logical outline.			
I can integrate short quotations and explain them.			
I can revise and edit using the checklist, including terminology.			

Exit ticket

1. Your thesis.
2. One revision you'll make.
3. When you'll finish your draft.

Next class: Literature Circle Seminar.

Teacher reveal

Essay: key points

Thesis: Arguable, specific, and about how the novel makes meaning: “Through ___, [author] shows that ___.”

Structure: Introduction (context, author and Nation, thesis); three body paragraphs; conclusion (significance).

Evidence: Short, integrated quotations with page numbers; more explanation than quotation.

Terminology: Use the author's own terms for their Nation; First Nations, Métis, Inuit; no outdated terms except in quotation, explained.

Publishing: MLA format, a works cited entry for the novel, proofread aloud.