

The Things They Carried Paper

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR RUBRIC!!

You will write a paper on the following topic:

What theme(s) are most clearly shown through these stories?

- Paragraph 1: Introduction (4 sentence minimum) –
 - Begin with a “hook.”
 - Then, give an overview of the topic (include the title of the book and its author).
 - And finally finish up with a strong thesis sentence – must be the last sentence.
 - You are developing the specific angle you want to take regarding this general topic – and you must have enough information to develop 3 body paragraphs (3 main points)
- Body Paragraphs: (at least 3 paragraphs each with 11 sentences roughly)
 - Each body paragraph will express one aspect of the topic/thesis
 - Each body paragraph will include at least 3 specific examples with supporting sentences; if you choose to use direct quotations, then use in text citations after
 - Use transition words & phrases to connect ideas within a paragraph
 - Strong topic sentences and closing/transition sentences are needed
- Closing Paragraph (4 sentences minimum)
 - Begins with your thesis *restated* – must be the first sentence
 - Goes from specific to broad when wrapping up the essay
 - Closes with a “memorable” finish [try to avoid asking a question as your closing sentence]
- MLA Formated Essay
- Keep the essay in third person (so no 1st or 2nd person pronouns are allowed)
- Make sure you follow proper grammar rules (see rubric)
- Works Cited included on its own page after the end of the essay
- Turnitin.com is a required aspect of this paper as well

RUBRIC: *The Things They Carried* Essay

_____/4 Turnitin.com on time
_____/4 **MLA Heading** (correct order and formatting)
_____/2 **MLA Header** (formatting and on every page)
_____/2 **MLA Title** (formatting, unique, on subject matter)
_____/3 **Works Cited** Formatted Title (1), Reverse Indents (1), Formatting within entries is correct (1)

_____/9 **Introductory paragraph**
Hook (2), Book title & author given (2),
broad to narrow info of at least 4 sentences (2), thesis (3)

_____/39 **Body Paragraphs**
Topic sentences (6)
3+ strong examples per paragraph (9)
2-3 supporting sentences for each example (18)
(And any quotations are cited properly)
Closing/transition sentence for each paragraph (6)

_____/7 **Closing Paragraph**
Thesis restated (3), specific to broad wrap up of at least 4 sentences (2),
memorable finish [avoid asking a question] (2)

_____/30 **Writing Style & Word Choice** [*Use your handout as a guide*]
Used Active Action verbs
No first or second person pronouns
Agreement: subject/verb and pronoun/antecedent
Sentences: varied sentence structure, properly punctuated, unified, coherent, parallel structure,
no fragments or run ons, etc
Avoid general wording (“do,” “stuff,” “thing,” etc) & overused expressions & slang, etc
Focusing on specific descriptors and nouns

TOTAL POINTS: _____/100