

## Gatsby Essay Topics 2019

Here are the essay topics for the Gatsby essay. You may choose to write on any of the prompts, or see me if you have an alternative question/prompt. Essays should be 2-3 pages typed, double-spaced. You will have all of class today and tomorrow to complete this.

Essays must:

- Include a clearly written thesis or controlling purpose statement
- Begin paragraphs with topic sentences and give specific examples for support
- Include at least 1 quote or example per body paragraph
- Integrate quotes into your own sentences and put page numbers in parentheses at the end of the sentence (25).

1) F. Scott Fitzgerald once commented, "An author ought to write for the youth of his generation, the critics of the next, and the schoolmasters of ever afterward." In a well thought-out essay, explain how the *Great Gatsby* fulfills Fitzgerald's criteria for literature. What do we learn from the novel?

2) "Then wear the gold hat, if that will move her;  
If you can bounce high, bounce for her too,  
Till she cry 'Lover, gold-hatted, high bouncing lover,  
I must have you!'"

Epigram from the title page of *The Great Gatsby*. Quote attributed to a character from Fitzgerald's book, *This Side of Paradise*.

Write an essay in which you discuss this epigram in relation to Gatsby and Daisy and F Scott and Zelda. Discuss why and how Gatsby/Fitzgerald followed this advice, and evaluate why it was/was not a mistake.

3. The *Great Gatsby* is often referred to as a literary masterpiece. What literary techniques does Fitzgerald use to make this novel great? How do those techniques further the themes of the novel?

4. The *Great Gatsby* is often referred to as one of the most important American novels. What is great about this novel, what makes it an American story, and what does it represent about the American people? How does the novel reflect American values? What do you think about those values? What relevance does this novel have in our contemporary world?

5. Create an essay topic of your own. Feel free to write about anything, but you must clear your topic with me. You might want to consider writing about gender roles, race/ethnicity, color imagery, or the role time or music play in the novel.

