

**Choose one of the following essay questions or invent your own. Each of you needs to write a well organized, multi-paragraph, analytical essay. Essays should be 2-4 pages. If you would like to work on a project instead of the essay, that would be possible. It should represent about 3 to 4 hours of work and your project must provide an analysis of an important aspect of the novel. You may use the essay topics as a guide for your thinking about a possible project.**

1. One of the many issues in *Sula* is the transfer of values from one generation to another. During this process of transfer there is both assimilation of parent values and reaction/response to those values. In a well-organized analysis that gives at least three specific examples, explain how Sula or Nel develops her values and connections as a response to the values of her family.
2. Is Sula a witch? In a well-organized analysis in which you define “witch” and give at least three specific examples from the book, make a case for or against this theory.
3. Toni Morrison uses fire and water in highly symbolic ways in *Sula*. Provide an analysis of the fire and/or water symbolism using at least three specific examples from the book and support it with your commentary and connections to your analysis.
4. Critics have argued that the most important issue in the novel is the way some of the characters challenge the concept of the traditional or nuclear family. Analyze the specific ways certain characters challenge this concept and discuss whether or not the alternative family structures are successful and or/healthy.
5. Discuss the ways Morrison challenges our common understanding of love. How is love presented in this novel? What is Morrison attempting to communicate through the various love relationships in the novel?
6. Construct your own topic based Sarah Aguiar’s essay, “The Art of Becoming a Bitch.” This essay is chapter 5 from her book, *The Bitch is Back*.