

## What Is American Literature Essay

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What is American literature and what makes it unique? Find the answer here! This American literature essay gives the definition of the term and focuses on its characteristics: history, authors, periods, and themes.

### American Literature Definition

American literature refers to the body of written or literary works shaped in the history of the United States and its former colonies (britannica.com). Tracing back America's history, America was once under the rule of Britain as part of the latter's colonies therefore its literary institution is associated to the expansive tradition of English literature. However, American literature is now considered a separate course and institution because of its one of a kind American characteristics and the production of its literature.

This paper aims to present an extended definition on the meaning of the term American Literature. The paper will discuss the background of American Literature and how it has come about, the writing style of American authors and what makes the American text different and unique from other national literatures and lastly the paper will present arguments which explore the concept of American literature.

### The History of American Literature

Before Columbus and other European colonizers discovered the Americans, the native peoples of the continent have no written alphabet but they expressed their artistic talents and passed on knowledge of their traditions in the form of chants, songs and spoken narratives.

Contrary to the popular Western understanding of literature that they must be principally a result of written words, scholars considered these verbal genres which include trickster tales, jokes, naming and grievance chants, and dream songs, among others as "literary" because they embody the creative and arousing retorts of the people to their Native culture (Baym, Franklin, Gura, Krupat and Levine).

# What Makes American Literature American Essay

**Library of Congress. Office for Subject  
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## **What Makes American Literature American Essay:**

**Library of Congress Subject Headings** Library of Congress,2006      What is African American Literature? Margo N. Crawford,2021-01-27 After Kenneth W Warren s What Was African American Literature Margo N Crawford delivers What is African American Literature The idea of African American literature may be much more than literature written by authors who identify as Black What is African American Literature focuses on feeling as form in order to show that African American literature is an archive of feelings a tradition of the tension between uncontrollable black affect and rigid historical structure Margo N Crawford argues that textual production of affect such as blush vibration shiver twitch and wink reveals that African American literature keeps reimagining a black collective nervous system Crawford foregrounds the idea of African American literature and uncovers the black feeling world co created by writers and readers Rejecting the notion that there are no formal lines separating African American literature and a broader American literary tradition Crawford contends that the distinguishing feature of African American literature is a moodscape that is as stable as electricity Presenting a fresh perspective on the affective atmosphere of African American literature this compelling text frames central questions around the idea of African American literature shows the limits of historicism in explaining the mood of African American literature and addresses textual production in the creation of the African American literary tradition Part of the acclaimed Wiley Blackwell Manifestos series What is African American Literature is a significant addition to scholarship in the field Professors and students of American literature African American literature and Black Studies will find this book an invaluable source of fresh perspectives and new insights on America s black literary tradition      **Library of Congress Subject Headings** Library of Congress. Cataloging Policy and Support Office,2003      American Literature-Student James P. Stobaugh,2012-11-01 Enjoy beloved classics while developing vocabulary reading and critical thinking skills Each literature book in the series is a one year course Each chapter has five lessons with daily concept building exercises warm up questions and guided readings Easy to use with suggested reading schedules and daily calendar Equips students to think critically about philosophy and trends in culture and articulate their views through writing A well crafted presentation of whole book or whole work selections from the major genres of classic literature prose poetry and drama each course has 34 chapters representing 34 weeks of study with an overview of narrative background material on the writers their historical settings and worldview The rich curriculum s content is infused with critical thinking skills and an easy to use teacher s guide outlines student objectives with each chapter providing the answers to the assignments and weekly exercises The final lesson of the week includes both the exam covering insights on the week s chapter as well as essays developed through the course of that week s study chosen by the educator and student to personalize the coursework for the individual learner      **The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature** Jay Parini,2004 The Encyclopedia of American Literature gathers together 350 essays from over 190 leading scholars on the whole of American literature from European discovery to the present At the

core of the Encyclopedia lie 250 essays on poets playwrights essayists and novelists Figures such as Whitman Melville Faulkner Frost and Morrison are discussed in detail with each examined in the context of his or her times an assessment of the writer's current reputation a bibliography of major works and a list of major critical and biographical works about the writer Fifty entries on major works such as Moby Dick Song of Myself Walden The Great Gatsby The Waste Land Their Eyes Were Watching God Death of a Salesman and Beloved place the work in its historical context and offer a range of possibilities with regard to critical approach The Encyclopedia also contains essays on literary movements periods and themes pulling together a broad range of information and making connections between them Each entry has its own primary and annotated secondary bibliography and a system of cross references helps readers locate information with ease The Encyclopedia of American Literature is an outstanding reference source for students studying authors or particular pieces of literature libraries looking for one comprehensive source and readers interested in American literature its authors and its connection with various areas of study

**The Continuum Encyclopedia of American Literature** Steven R. Serafin, Alfred Bendixen, 2005-09-01 More than ten years in the making this comprehensive single volume literary survey is for the student scholar and general reader The Continuum Encyclopedia of American Literature represents a collaborative effort involving 300 contributors from across the US and Canada Composed of more than 1 100 signed biographical critical entries this Encyclopedia serves as both guide and companion to the study and appreciation of American literature A special feature is the topical article of which there are 70

*The American Essay in the American Century* Ned Stuckey-French, 2011-05-31 In modern culture the essay is often considered an old fashioned unoriginal form of literary styling The word essay brings to mind the uninspired five paragraph theme taught in schools around the country or the antiquated Edwardian meanderings of English gentlemen rattling on about art and old books These connotations exist despite the fact that Americans have been reading and enjoying personal essays in popular magazines for decades engaging with a multitude of ideas through this short form means of expression To defend the essay that misunderstood staple of first year composition courses Ned Stuckey French has written *The American Essay in the American Century* This book uncovers the buried history of the American personal essay and reveals how it played a significant role in twentieth century cultural history In the early 1900s writers and critics debated the death of the essay claiming it was too traditional to survive the era's growing commercialism labeling it a bastion of British upper class conventions Yet in that period the essay blossomed into a cultural force as a new group of writers composed essays that responded to the concerns of America's expanding cosmopolitan readership These essays would spark the magazine revolution giving a fresh voice to the ascendant middle class of the young century With extensive research and a cultural context Stuckey French describes the many reasons essays grew in appeal and importance for Americans He also explores the rise of E B White considered by many the greatest American essayist of the first half of the twentieth century whose prowess was overshadowed by his success in other fields of writing White's work introduced a new

voice creating an American essay that melded seriousness and political resolve with humor and self deprecation This book is one of the first to consider and reflect on the contributions of E B White to the personal essay tradition and American culture more generally The American Essay in the American Century is a compelling highly readable book that illuminates the history of a secretly beloved literary genre A work that will appeal to fiction readers scholars and students alike this book offers fundamental insight into modern American literary history and the intersections of literature culture and class through the personal essay This thoroughly researched volume dismisses once and for all the death of the essay proving that the essay will remain relevant for a very long time to come

**F-O Library of Congress. Office for Subject Cataloging Policy,1990** **Essays on Literature, History & Society** Sayyid Naqī Ḥusain Ja'farī,Syed Naqi Husain Jafri,2010 In a consideration of a vast scope of themes such as ghazal as a form of non conformist poetry Hispano Arabic connections with English poetry Syed Ahmad Khan s role in the Urdu Hindi controversy and madrasa education and its contemporary criticism the volume forms an important compliment and corrective to much of the current writings on the various issues

**A-E Library of Congress. Office for Subject Cataloging Policy,1990** **Library of Congress Subject Headings** Library of Congress. Office for Subject Cataloging Policy,1990 **The Cambridge History of the American Essay** Christy Wampole,Jason Childs,2023-12-14 From the country s beginning essayists in the United States have used their prose to articulate the many ways their individuality has been shaped by the politics social life and culture of this place The Cambridge History of the American Essay offers the fullest account to date of this diverse and complex history From Puritan writings to essays by Indigenous authors from Transcendentalist and Pragmatist texts to Harlem Renaissance essays from New Criticism to New Journalism The story of the American essay is told here beginning in the early eighteenth century and ending with the vibrant heterogeneous scene of contemporary essayistic writing The essay in the US has taken many forms nature writing travel writing the genteel tradition literary criticism hybrid genres such as the essay film and the photo essay Across genres and identities this volume offers a stirring account of American essayism into the twenty first century The Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth-Century American Literature Russ Castronovo,2012-01-12 How do we approach the rich field of nineteenth century American literature How might we recalibrate the coordinates of critical vision and open up new areas of investigation To answer such questions this volume brings together 23 original essays written by leading scholars in American literary studies By examining specific novels poems essays diaries and other literary examples the authors confront head on the implications scope and scale of their analysis The chapters foreground methodological concerns to assess the challenges of transnational perspectives disability studies environmental criticism affect studies gender analysis and other cutting edge approaches The Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth Century American Literature is thus both critically incisive and sharply practical inviting attention to how readers read how critics critique and how interpreters interpret It offers forceful strategies for rethinking protest novels women s writing urban literature slave narratives and popular fiction just to name a

few of the wide array of topics and genres covered This volume rather than surveying established ideas in studies of nineteenth century American literature registers what is happening now and anticipates what will shape the field s future

**Subject Headings Used in the Dictionary Catalogs of the Library of Congress** Library of Congress, Library of Congress. Subject Cataloging Division, 1966 Viewpoints in Essays Marion Horton, 1922 **Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature**, 1912 **Essays on Norwegian-American Literature and History** Dorothy Burton Skårdal, Øyvind Tveitereid Gulliksen, Ingeborg R. Kongslien, 1990 Definitions Essays In Contemporary Criticism Henry Seidel Canby, 2024-01-02 Definitions Essays in Contemporary Criticism is a set of informative articles written by means of Henry Seidel Canby Canby s paintings published inside the early twentieth century dives into literary complaint with a modern attitude The portions within the anthology present Canby s severe feedback on numerous literary and cultural issues of the day In Definitions Canby makes use of his sharp mind to study and describe most important components of literature way of life and society The articles cowl a wide range of topics from the complexities of language and style to broader analyses of cultural norms and values Canby s prose is clear and deep making complicated topics understandable to a broad audience As a literary critic Canby examines the works of his contemporaries supplying nuanced viewpoints on the converting nature of literature and its feature in reflecting and growing society Definitions demonstrates Canby s highbrow prowess and ability to traverse the problems of current culture using literary evaluation **A Library of American Literature from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time** Edmund Clarence Stedman, Ellen Mackay (Hutchinson) Cortissoz, 1891 **The Glorious American Essay** Phillip Lopate, 2021-10-19 A monumental canon defining anthology of three centuries of American essays from Cotton Mather and Benjamin Franklin to David Foster Wallace and Zadie Smith selected by acclaimed essayist Phillip Lopate Not only an education but a joy This is a book for the ages Rivka Galchen author of Atmospheric Disturbances The essay form is an especially democratic one and many of the essays Phillip Lopate has gathered here address themselves sometimes critically to American values We see the Puritans the Founding Fathers and Mothers and the stars of the American Renaissance struggle to establish a national culture A grand tradition of nature writing runs from Audubon Thoreau and John Muir to Rachel Carson and Annie Dillard Marginalized groups use the essay to assert or to complicate notions of identity Lopate has cast his net wide embracing critical personal political philosophical literary polemical autobiographical and humorous essays Americans by birth as well as immigrants appear here famous essayists alongside writers more celebrated for fiction or poetry The result is a dazzling overview of the riches of the American essay

Uncover the mysteries within Explore with is enigmatic creation, **What Makes American Literature American Essay** . This downloadable ebook, shrouded in suspense, is available in a PDF format ( \*). Dive into a world of uncertainty and anticipation. Download now to unravel the secrets hidden within the pages.

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