

A Christmas Carol: Essay Assignment

Question: **How do the four ghosts contribute to the changes in Scrooge's attitudes towards the poor, Christmas, and life in general?**



Paragraph 1: Introduction

Introduce the novel; who wrote it, when it was written, etc. Explain the type of person Scrooge was **at the start of the novel**. Discuss his personality, as well as how Scrooge **initially** feels about how the **poor should be treated** and about **Christmas**. Briefly discuss how he changes by the end of the novel. Your **THESIS** should be a sentence summarizing your main point, and goes at the end of this paragraph. (e.g. Scrooge's life experiences have made him a bitter and cynical old man; however, his experiences with the four ghosts that visit him prompt him to reflect on his life, and change his attitude and actions positively.)

Paragraph 2: The Ghost of Marley

Explain **who** the first ghost is, what he says and does, as well as Scrooge's **reaction** to him. How is Scrooge affected by this ghost? Does he change?

Paragraph 3: The Ghost of Christmas Past

Write about what this ghost **shows** and **tells** Scrooge, and how Scrooge **reacts**. How is Scrooge affected by this ghost? Does he change?

Paragraph 4: The Ghost of Christmas Present

Explain what this ghost **shows** and **tells** Scrooge, and explain how Scrooge reacts. How is Scrooge affected by this ghost? Does he change?

Paragraph 5: The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

Explain what the final ghost **shows** Scrooge, and explain how Scrooge reacts. How is Scrooge affected by this ghost? Does he change?

Paragraph 6: Conclusion

Sum up what kind of man Scrooge is at the **end** of *A Christmas Carol*. Briefly explain how the ghosts have helped change his attitudes towards the **poor, Christmas, and life**.

How will I be assessed?

Review these guidelines before you hand in your essay:

1. Does your essay have all five sections? (Introduction, 3-4 Supporting Paragraphs, and Conclusion)	5	4	3	2	1
2. In your first paragraph, is your thesis clearly stated?	5	4	3	2	1
3. Do your three paragraphs all have separate ideas that support your thesis?	5	4	3	2	1
4. Do you use and explain at least one relevant quotation in each paragraph?	5	4	3	2	1
5. Is your writing free from obvious spelling, grammar, and sentence mistakes?	5	4	3	2	1
6. Is your essay organized well, easy to understand, and does it contain relevant concise ideas?	5	4	3	2	1

Total= _____/30

Marking Guide: Your essay will be based on the following criteria

5 - Outstanding, free from errors.

4 - Good job. Few minor mistakes

3 - O.K. Effort is evident

2 - Needs Work. Many mistakes.

1 - Little effort is evident

0 - Unacceptable/Incomplete