

## Prompt for *The Tattooed Soldier* by Hector Tobar

For Project Text, you are writing a literary analysis on Hector Tobar's *The Tattooed Soldier*. Aim for a deeper analysis than surface-level plot. Using literary approaches will help you create and organize an argument.

**These are some guiding questions to help you draft your essay:**

- Analyze how the setting (L.A.) is characterized in the novel.
- How does the novel showcase migrant experiences?
- How does the history of Los Angeles affect the novel?
- Do a character analysis of either one, two or three characters; you can compare and contrast characters.
- How does the novel challenge the definitions of advanced democracies and developing nations?
- Does Antonio's sense of identity and culture change as a result of his experience?
- How does the novel challenge or contribute to representations of indigenous people as pre-modern?
- How does Longoria's military background and ideas of nationalism affect his practice of social justice?
- How does language affect a character's identity?
- How does the history of Guatemala affect the story?

**DO: Check off all these steps before submitting your final draft.**

1. Review the rubric to ensure you are presenting your best work
2. Use textual evidence in each paragraph
3. Use different kinds of quotes:
  - Direct
  - Integrated
  - Paraphrase
4. Use 4 sources minimum

**Requirements:**

- 5-7 pages
- MLA format
- Works Cited page
- 4-6 sources (interviews with the author, scholarly articles about the novel, articles about the history of Los Angeles/Guatemala etc.)

## Project Text Rubric Spring 2018

**This table explains the requirements of your essay.**

Course No	Component	Minimum Length	Sources
113B & 114B	Research/Argumentative Essay	5-7 Pages	Works Cited (4-6 valid sources)
115	Research/Argumentative Essay	5-7 Pages	Works Cited (4-6 valid sources)

**This table explains in detail how your essays will be assessed by the department.**

Attribute	Characteristics
Topic address Central American Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explains how Central American communities are affected.</li> </ul>
Thesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear, insightful and thought-provoking</li> <li>• States the purpose/intent in essay introduction</li> <li>• Argumentative</li> <li>• Supported with valid research</li> <li>• Developed and explored adequately</li> </ul>
Critical Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses assertions</li> <li>• Provides interpretations of evidence</li> <li>• Demonstrates analysis</li> <li>• Employs sound arguments and logic</li> <li>• Avoids common fallacies</li> <li>• Goes beyond sharing information from sources and surface explanation</li> </ul>
Structure and organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraphing and logical transitions are evident</li> <li>• Ideas cohere and show attention to organization</li> <li>• Paragraphs are linked to the thesis</li> <li>• Conclusion connects to the thesis</li> </ul>
Well-developed support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research is integrated into the arguments</li> <li>• Refutes counter arguments</li> <li>• Uses a variety of evidence or sources</li> <li>• Refers to sources that support as well as refute the thesis</li> </ul>
Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses MLA format appropriately</li> <li>• Research properly cited in Works Cited list and in parenthetical citations in the text</li> <li>• Observes print conventions for headings, pagination, citations, margins, etc.</li> </ul>
Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses standard American grammar and usage</li> <li>• Observes spelling conventions</li> <li>• Demonstrates sentence-level competence</li> </ul>
Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses a tone appropriate to academic discourse</li> <li>• Engages reader with title and introduction.</li> </ul>