

The Most Dangerous Game – Writing Options

Directions: Choose ONE of the SIX essay options below. In your essay, you should show understanding and analysis of the source text as well as mastery of the chosen writing genre (argumentative, expository, or narrative)

Writing Prompts

Argumentative

Game Changer: After Zaroff's death and the ensuing police investigation, an international committee is debating how the General's island should be used now that it is not occupied. The two prevailing options are to convert the island into a resort hotel or to make it into an endangered animal sanctuary. In a letter addressed to the international community, convince the committee to choose one option over the other. Defend your answer with supporting evidence and include references to the text in your argument.

Hunting for Sport: Hunting for sport has been around for thousands of years. Many countries impose restrictions on the types of animal that can be hunted, the duration of the hunting season, and the number of animals a person may kill, but very few countries have outright banned hunting as a recreational sport. Should sport hunting be banned in the United States? In a well-developed essay, convince your reader either that sport hunting should be banned or that it should be allowed to continue. Use extensive supporting evidence and details to support your position.

Expository

Game Changer: After Zaroff's death and the ensuing police investigation, possession of the General's island has been turned over to the Brazilian government. You are a civic engineer working with the Brazilian government in charge of repurposing the island now that it is no longer occupied. Write a public address to the international community describing, in detail, what will become of the island now. Some options might include: a resort hotel, a nature/animal reserve, research facility, and/or other residential or commercial development. Why has the government chosen this route? Use details from the descriptions of the island in your report.

Exclusive Interview: Ever since Sanger Rainsford returned to the mainland with his incredible tale, news outlets have been clamoring to get the full story from him. Rainsford has offered the exclusive interview to your news organization. Create an interview relating the events in the story in Rainsford's own words. Your interview should ask at least SIX complex questions (you may include follow-up questions in this total) and provide extensive answers for each question. You should use quotations from the text in your interview.

Alternatively, write an AP or Reuters-style news article about the situation on the island. Include witness testimony, law enforcement analysis, and descriptions from the text in your report.

Narrative

Missing Pieces: What happened to Rainsford between jumping from the cliff and the confrontation in the general's bedroom? What did Rainsford experience while swimming across the cove? How did he get into the chateau? What were his thoughts while waiting for the general to return? Write an addendum to the story, from Rainsford's point of view, filling in what happened during this time. Be sure to include sensory details and figurative language.

Ivan the Terrible: The reader knows very little about Ivan beyond his physical description. How did he come into the General's service? Why is he so devoted to the general? Is he actually "deaf and dumb" as the General claims? What is his background? Write a piece that serves as a prequel to the short story and discusses Ivan's background and how/when he met the General. Refer to descriptions of the two men from the text as you are writing.