

ENG 102 ESSAY 2 Character Analysis

DUE: Draft due Oct. 19; Essay due Oct. 21 (*Paper must be submitted on time for credit.*)

LENGTH: 800-950 words

FORMAT

- Font: Calibri, 12-point; one-inch margins; set line spacing at 1.5 (under Paragraph format)
- Heading: student's name, course title and section, date submitted.
- Center the title after the heading and then begin the text of your paper.
- Include the Works Cited at the end and please number pages in the upper right corner.

ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS

OPTION ONE - Analysis

- Choose two characters, one from two different works listed in the Works Cited below to study and compare—characters who have a common role or similar motivations.
- Carefully reread your selections, writing notes about key passages.
- List the characters' traits, their actions, conflicts, and motivations, and consider whether they change or come to awareness in the story. If the characters are not protagonists, consider their role in helping us understand the protagonist. Also look at how the writer may use the setting to help us understand the character.
- From your notes, discover an idea that connects them. For example, you might ask what the characters teach us about women and their roles, love and marital relationships, the struggle for self knowledge. This is your working thesis—main point.
- Use your notes to develop your main point in an analytical essay for an audience who has read the stories and needs a greater understanding of how these characters' reveal the common idea you have discovered. Revise your thesis as necessary.
- Include the titles and authors of the stories in the opening section of your paper.
- Integrate **four quotations** from the readings in the text of your essay.
- **Title:** Create a title that reflects your thesis.
- Read the directions under OPTION TWO below for **citations** and **bibliography** and review the criteria for grading.

OPTION TWO - Encounter

- Choose two characters, one from two different works listed in the Works Cited below to study and compare.
- Carefully reread your selections, writing notes about key passages.
- Create a setting and situation where the characters encounter each other.
- Develop a scene that shows the characters interacting; **make their behavior consistent with the writer's portrayal**. Allow the scene to reveal characters' values and motivations as well as a story's theme.
- To support the scene, **integrate four quotations** from the readings in the text of your essay.
- You may use a third character if this seems appropriate.
- Add an introduction or epilogue explaining your purpose in creating the characters' interaction. This **commentary** may be as long as 25% of the paper or just a brief paragraph. Include the titles and authors of the stories in this section.
- **Choosing characters:** Select stories with common themes or characters who may learn from each other. Consider how the characters help us understand an idea from one story. Use an author's setting or create a suitable one. As the writer, you are "playing God," so you may have characters from different periods interact.

- **Title:** Create a title that reflects the theme of the encounter.
- **Dialog:** Indent paragraphs for new speakers and follow punctuation rules for quotations. Use simple speaker tags (he said, she said) only when necessary. Break up long dialog with narration in between stating **actions** of characters rather than using adverbs about how they speak.
- **Citations:** When you quote from the works, use author and page references to stories in parentheses after the quotation. Also credit any ideas from commentaries in the textbook. For example, a citation following a quotation may be either (Steinbeck 161). OR (161).
- Include the **bibliography** titled Works Cited as a separate page at the end of the essay; see the example below.

Works Cited

Hemingway, Ernest. "Hills Like White Elephants." *Literature: A Pocket Anthology*. Ed. R. S. Gwynn. New York: Longman, 2007.

Oates, Joyce Carol. "Where Are You Going Where Have You Been?" *Literature: A Pocket Anthology*. Ed. R. S. Gwynn. New York: Longman, 2012. 270-285.

Perabo, Susan. "The Payoff." *Literature: A Pocket Anthology*. Ed. R. S. Gwynn. New York: Longman, 2012. 411-424.

CRITERIA FOR GRADING ESSAY

- clear thesis or main point (in Option 2 this is shown both in the commentary and in the theme of the encounter)
- sufficient evidence (supporting details)
- effective organization (paragraphs and story development)
- proper grammar and style (sentence structure and variety); correct spelling and word usage
- correct documentation of sources (according to MLA)
- thoroughness in analyzing and following directions of assignment (This includes demonstration of insight into story characters and themes and appropriate selection of quotations)

Reminder

- Read your essay out loud before **revising** each draft and remember to **proofread**.