



CHARACTER ANALYSIS ESSAY

Name: _____

Essay prompts: From a work of literature that you have read, select a character who either experiences a change, or causes a change in a character or on those around them. Then write an essay in which you discuss the effects of the change.

Story selection:

- *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- *Chains*
- *Copper Sun*
- *If I Ever Get Out of Here*

Essay due dates:

- During the week of March 6-10, you will write the first draft of your essay. We will begin this process in class.
- I will check in on your progress several times over the next two weeks.
- During the week of March 13, you will need to complete the editing/highlighting checklist for this essay to self-assess your work.
- We will conduct peer edits on Monday, March 13. Your home edit is due Wednesday, Mar. 15.
- **THE ENTIRE ESSAY IS DUE FRIDAY, MARCH 17.**

Character Analysis Outline:

I. 1st Paragraph - INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

- a. HOOK - Engage the reader/audience; use options from HOOK handout
- b. Background information (title, author, brief summary)
- c. Bridge - sentence or two that helps transition from the hook to the thesis
- d. THESIS - last sentence that makes claim about what essay will be about

II. 2nd, 3rd, 4th BODY Paragraphs - Prove your thesis is TRUE - ALL paragraphs begin with topic sentences

- a. (2nd paragraph) Explain what the character is like at the beginning of the story. Include a QUOTE/PASSAGE from the story to support your opinion of what the character is like at the beginning of the story.
- b. (3rd paragraph) Describe an event (or two) that caused the character to change.
- c. (4th paragraph) Show what the character is like at the end of the story. Include a QUOTE/PASSAGE from the story to support your opinion of what the character was like at the end of the story.

III. 5th Paragraph - CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

- a. Use at least three sentences that review your main points explain why you think the character changed. Answer any questions left unanswered in the body paragraphs.
- b. Restate your thesis in different words. (*See the conclusion recipe below that should help you rephrase your thesis statement.*)
- c. Give the reader a lasting impression by connecting the subject to their own life or a concept or quote to leave them thinking. It's also always impressive to reconnect to the hook when possible.

Conclusion Recipe: (Example is from *The Outsiders*)

1). In the beginning Ponyboy describes Dallas Winston as a **hardened, reckless** criminal 2). But after Johnny dies, Dally became more **vulnerable, scared, resigned** about his future.

SWITCH clause 1). and 2).

CHANGE adjectives

2). Dally became a **more sympathetic** character after Johnny's death, 1). Even though he used to only be a **tough hood**.