

Modified Jane Schaffer Two-Chunk Essay
English IH
Peterson
Due Date:
Worth:

Purpose: In a literary analysis essay, your purpose is to explain how a particular narrative decision made by the author contributes to either the overall tone or a dominant theme of a short story or novel. Instead of analyzing *what happens* in the story (e.g., the way in which the protagonist matures over time), then, you will analyzing *the way in which the author tells* the story (e.g., how the author's use of 2nd Person Address P.O.V. intensifies the somber tone of the story).

Hopefully, you'll be choosing a story that appeals to you. It may be humorous; it may be horrifying. It may be mysterious or melancholy or inspiring. Whatever the case, your primary job is to *defend* a certain narrative decision made by the writer. That doesn't mean you have to love every single word on the page, but on the whole, you should be able to justify why the writer made the narrative decision he did.

Audience: This is a formal essay. You should assume that your reader has read the story, but you should not address the reader in a casual manner. That means no slang, personal pronouns, or contractions in your OWN writing.

Essay Paragraph Structure: In general, your essay paragraph will consist of a **topic sentence**, a **concrete detail**, a **commentary section**, a **second concrete detail**, a **second commentary section**, and a **closing sentence**. Please develop your essay paragraph thoroughly.

Using Long and Short Quotations: You must cite a specific portion of the text for each **concrete detail** in your paragraph. Please remember, though, that you should only quote what you need to support your argument; a single word or phrase can be just as effective as an entire passage. For a quick refresher course, please refer to the link called "**using.long.short.quotations**" under the "**Jane Schaffer**" tab of our class web page. If you still have questions, feel free to conference with me.

Paragraph Format: You should type and double-space your essay in a standard, 12-point font. Please **color-code** your sentences on white paper, and please remember to spell check your writing. Finally, you will need to submit your essay to **turnitin.com** by 11:59 p.m. of the due date. If you fail to do any of these things, I reserve the right to penalize you a full letter grade on the Organization rubric.

Remember: It is not enough to merely find examples of, say, allusions, figurative language, or narrative distance in the story you've selected. **The primary challenge of this essay is to explain how a particular narrative decision employed by the**

writer. If you're having trouble doing that, I'll do my best to help you clarify your argument.