

English 1302: Essay 2 Instructions

Analysis of a Theme in a Short Story

Write an analysis of a theme in **one** of the following short stories:

1. Tillie Olsen, "I Stand Here Ironing"
2. Amy Tan, "Two Kinds"
3. Alice Walker, "Everyday Use"
4. William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"
5. Raymond Carver, "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love"
6. Eudora Welty, "A Worn Path"

- See the discussion of theme on pp. 128-131 in *Making Literature Matter*.
- Your thesis should reflect three points (aspects of theme) that you are going to focus on in your paper. Another approach to thematic analysis is to illustrate three methods by which an author develops a theme.
- Quote liberally from the short story (citing in-text, MLA style). Look up how to quote short prose passages, as well as how to block longer passages of prose. Remember to introduce each quote with an independent clause (followed by a colon); the introduction to a quote provides you with an opportunity to state an opinion and make clear why the quote is significant.
- You will need a works cited page (MLA format), in which you cite the short story.
- You are to use only TWO sources for this paper—the short story itself AND one peer-reviewed article from a scholarly database from the HCCS Library Databases (such as *JSTOR*, *Academic Search Complete*, or *ProQuest*). The article should be either a critique of the short story or a discussion of themes in the works of the writer of that short story.
- Quote at least twice from the peer-reviewed article in your paper.

Length: 3 pages (minimum), double spaced, 12-point font, one-inch margins

Submit your paper electronically, in the Assignment link in the class site in Eagle Online Canvas.

Your paper will be subject to a Turnitin Originality check. See the Scholastic Dishonesty policy on the Syllabus for further information on what occurs when there are significant matches detected by Turnitin to materials that are not documented as required.

Review of the 500-word theme:

- I. Paragraph 1—Introduction—100-125 words (or 5-12 sentences)
 - Lead-in (mention the title of the work, the author's name, and the date of composition)
 - Provide a brief synopsis (2-3 sentences, with the gist of the work)
 - Thesis statement—list the points to be developed in the body of the paper
- II. Paragraph 2—First Body Paragraph—100-125 words (or 5-12 sentences)
 - Follow the topic sentence with support—and in a literary analysis, that means quotations, quotations, quotations!
- III. Paragraph 3—Second Body Paragraph—100-125 words (or 5-12 sentences)
 - Follow the topic sentence with support—and in a literary analysis, that means quotations, quotations, quotations!
- IV. Paragraph 4—Third Body Paragraph—100-125 words (or 5-12 sentences)
 - Follow the topic sentence with support—and in a literary analysis, that means quotations, quotations, quotations!
- V. Paragraph 5—The Conclusion—100-125 words (or 5-12 sentences)
 - Mirror the introduction—restate the thesis, restate the major points *without being repetitive*
 - End with an important thought, a provocative idea, a quote