**ENGL 1712 05**

**Literary Analysis Paper Assignment Sheet**

For the major paper in this course, you will write an argument-focused, or thesis-driven, literary analysis paper. Your paper must use one **primary source** (short story) from our textbook and two additional **secondary sources** found through research. **Your secondary sources will be articles written by other scholars about the short story that you have chosen to study.**

Your literary analysis paper must be focused on a main argument or thesis that makes an interpretation of your primary source (short story). You will defend and develop your thesis in the body of the paper with evidence from both your primary and secondary sources.

To devise your thesis, your literary analysis paper must interpret the short story that you have chosen through the lens of one of the four approaches listed below. Choose the approach that makes the most sense in terms of your interests and the content of the story that you have selected to write about. The approaches described below offer guidance on what kinds of questions your thesis should answer in relation to the specific approach that you choose.

**Assignment Overview:**

**Length:** At least four full pages of polished prose, typed and double-spaced, not including the Works Cited page.

**Purpose:** To persuade your readers that your interpretation of your primary source (the short story that you have chosen) is correct or valid.

**Audience:** Members of our classroom community. **Please assume that your audience has read your chosen short story and is familiar with the plot. Do not retell the plot in your paper.**

**Tone:** Professional; neither too casual nor overly-highbrow.

**Format:** Word process your paper using Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1-inch margins all around the page, and double-spacing.

**Documentation:** Cite your sources using MLA Documentation Style and include a complete and correct Works Cited page.

**IMPORTANT:** Your secondary sources should be scholarly articles. During Week 8, you will be given specific instructions of which library databases to use in finding your secondary sources. **DO NOT USE SOURCES FROM THE OPEN INTERNET in this paper.**

**Possible Approaches:** These are suggested approaches you might take for analyzing your chosen short story in this paper. If you would like to propose a different approach, contact Kelly.

**1. A reading of the representations of class relations in one of the short stories in our textbook.** Your thesis should answer these types of questions: What does this story say about poverty and wealth? What might this story or its implied author be saying about relationships between the classes? Which elements of the short story and/or writing style does the author/story use to convey these ideas?

**2. A reading of the representations of gender roles in one of the short stories in our textbook.**  Your thesis should answer these types of questions: What is this story saying about the rights and roles of men and women in the time period and place in which it was written? What is this story or its implied author saying about relationships between men and women? Which elements of the short story and/or writing style does the author/story use to convey these ideas?

**3. A reading of the representations of race and/or race relations in one of the short stories in our textbook.** Your thesis should answer these types of questions: What is this story saying about race and/or racism? What is this story or its implied author saying about race relations in the time and place in which the story is set? Which elements of the short story and/or writing style does the author/story use to convey these ideas?

**4. An interpretation of the theme of one of the short stories in our textbook.** Your thesis should answer these types of questions: What is the main theme of this story? How does the author weave this theme into his or her story? Which elements of the short story and/or writing style does the author/story use to convey these ideas?

**Grading Criteria:**

**A successful Literary Analysis Paper will**

begin with a two-part title that sparks reader interest and that relates to your thesis in some way.

have an interesting introduction that brings readers into your topic and funnels down smoothly to a presentation of your main thesis.

be organized around a central argument or thesis that is debatable, unobvious, and of appropriate scope for the assignment.

be organized around a central thesis that makes a clear interpretation of or argument about the short story being discussed.

have a thesis that connects the meaning you have found in the story with the elements of the short story and/or writing style that we have been studying this semester.

develop its thesis with a series of logical claims that are stated in the topic sentences of the body paragraphs...

support all claims with ample evidence from one primary and at least two secondary sources.

use a mix of summary, paraphrase, and direct quotations when presenting evidence.

introduce evidence effectively, clearly explaining the source of the researched information and establishing the authority of that source.

clearly explain how the evidence used supports your arguments.

document all evidence with appropriate in-text citations.

end with a conclusion that closes the essay in a satisfying or memorable manner.

have a logical structure and smooth transitions.

include well-made paragraphs.

be built of sentences that are clear and correct.

be written in a professional tone.

be at least four full pages in length, not including the Works Cited page.

be formatted correctly in MLA documentation style and include a complete and correct Works Cited page.

**Assignment Timeline:**

**Friday, October 8:** Paper Topic Proposal due by 11:59 p.m. (The Literary Analysis Paper Topic Proposal will be posted under the Week 7 Objectives and Activities.)

**Friday, October 15:** Research Source List due by 1l:59 p.m. (The Research Source List assignment sheet will be posted under the Week 8 Objectives and Activities.)

**Friday, November 5:** First draft of the Literary Analysis Paper due by 11:59 p.m. This draft should include your in-text citations but does not yet require a Works Cited page.

**Friday, November 12:** Completed Peer Review Forms on the first drafts of the Literary Analysis Paper due by 11:59 p.m.

**Friday, November 19:** Second draft of the Literary Analysis Paper due by 11:59 p.m. This draft must include both your in-text citations and your Works Cited page. This is the draft that \*\*\*\*\* will comment on.

**Friday, December 3:** Final draft of the Literary Analysis Paper due by 11:59 p.m. Be sure to edit your final draft carefully and to include your in-text citations AND a complete and correct Works Cited page.