



Essay #4: Critical Essay on a Short Story: Incorporating Research Sources

Essay #4 will ask you to write a “critical essay” on the same short story you worked on for your Collaborative Short Story project. See our Guide to the Characteristics of a Critical Essay (<http://www.alamo.edu/sac/english/lirvin/wguides/critical.htm>) to review these characteristics.

Choosing a Topic:

You will need to determine your own “Essay Question” to focus your paper. The work we have done all semester related to our Think Pieces should help guide you on what to focus on for this paper. Pick some question or perplexity you have about the story. Pick some issue of interpretation that you see as important to the story. You will need to think critically about your choice of topic because you want a topic for which you may be able to get insight on from your research. Your “thesis” will be your answer or your opinion on the best interpretation of your essay question/issue of interpretation.

Supporting Your Thesis:

Support for this paper will need to come from **BOTH** the text of the short story as well as the text from critical articles you have read from your research into your story.

ONLY critical articles from published journals (as we find in the Literature Resource Center) can be used in this essay. *I suggest that you stick to the Literature Resource Center* as you look for information and interpretations related to your topic. No SparkNotes. No cheesy websites. These research sources need to be legitimate academic articles previously published in legitimate academic journals or places.

Research and Text Requirements:

For a “C”: Minimum three research sources. 750 word minimum.

For a “B”: Minimum of four research sources. 1000 word minimum.

For an “A”: Minimum of five research sources. 1250 word minimum

All essays should follow MLA Documentation Style as well as MLA Format. (12 pt. font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins)

Draft 1—due 4/28

Final Draft—5/3