

Essay 1 Directions

In this class you will be developing *one single research essay* over the course of the five-week semester. The final product will be a **thesis-driven** essay of 3-4 pages in length. "Thesis-driven" means that the essay is focused on *one clear central idea*. We will be working on this project step by step.

For Essay 1, you will write only an introduction (6-10 sentences).

For this introduction, you must find a second work of literature by one of the authors we have read in Week 1. This means that you can choose either James Joyce, Langston Hughes or one of the two alternate writers: John Updike or Sarah Orne Jewett. Links to stories by Updike and Jewett are provided on the Week 1 page.

Ideally, you will choose a writer whose work is of most interest to you. Be sure that one of the works you discuss is a selection that we read in class. There must be some point of comparison between the two works. For example, a poem by Langston Hughes might contain religious/Biblical references that can be compared to those in "Salvation." *This point of comparison will be your thesis.*

Not all works by an author will lend themselves to comparison, so you must do some research and choose the second work of literature with care and thought. Be sure your comparison is not simplistic. For example, do not put forth a thesis claiming that two James Joyce stories are about young boys. Your thesis must be more specific than this and must be an idea that can be developed into an analytical discussion.

Please follow the outline below as you write your introduction.

Original Title

Introduction

- Identification of title of works of literature and author
- Very brief (1 or 2 sentences) overview of works under discussion
- *Thesis Statement (point of comparison between the works)*

Works Cited

Below are citations for the stories from Week 1. Notice that a hanging indent should be used. Indent each line after the first line.

Hughes, Langston. "Salvation." *The Center for Fiction.org*.

2020.

Jewitt, Sarah Orne. "A White Heron." *LearningEnglish.com*.

Joyce, James. "Araby." Commonlit.org. CommonLit.

<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/araby>

Updike, John. "A&P." *CommonLit.org*. CommonLit.

<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/a-p>.