

## Essay Introduction Directions

Please read carefully.

Choose **one** of the four works we have read in the first five weeks of class (“The Most Handsome Drowned Man in the World” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez; “Salvation” by Langston Hughes; “Araby” by James Joyce, or “The Lesson” by Toni Cade Bambara). **Choose only one story.**

Write a 6-8 sentence **thesis**-driven introduction, adhering to MLA style. To arrive at a **thesis**, ask yourself the question: What point do I want to make about this story? The answer to this question is your **thesis** (main idea).



Your **thesis** should be an observation you have made on your own about a *literary element* in the story. Literary elements might include: theme, diction, narrative voice, imagery, mood, setting, character analysis, or other features of the text. See student sample essays on the Openlab main menu.

- Do *not* discuss anything that is outside the bounds of the story.
- Do *not* simply retell the plot of the story.

For this assignment, you have to do **five** things. Here they are:

- Identify the title and author of the story
- Give a very brief (1 or 2 sentences) overview of the story
- Provide your **Thesis Statement** (*main idea of your essay*)
- Include a Work Cited page (see citations below)
- Sign an Academic Integrity Pledge (see statement below)

### NOTE:

- Please write about literature in the **present verb tense**.
- Avoid the “I,” “you,” and “we” point of view. Use third-person point of view.
- Give your essay an interesting and original title.

## Additional Information Below

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## Works Cited Page

Cite your chosen work of literature, using correct MLA format.

Notice that a hanging indent should be used. This means that you indent each line after the first line of each entry. Here are the Works Cited entries for the works you may be writing about.

Bambara, Toni Cade. "The Lesson." *Gorilla, My Love*. Random House, 1972:

[http://www.cengage.com/custom/static\\_content](http://www.cengage.com/custom/static_content)

OLC/s76656\_76218lf/bambara.pdf.

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia. "The Most Handsome Drowned Man in the World." *An*

*Introduction to Fiction*. Eds. X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia. New York: Pearson

Longman, 2007. 536-540.

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

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

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

## Academic Integrity Pledge

In order to be graded, all essays must include a signed Academic Integrity Pledge. On the Work Cited page, please include the following and type your name.

*I hereby pledge that the information in this essay is my own original work and that all phrases or quotes taken from other sources have been correctly identified via quotation marks/in-text citation. YOUR NAME*