

## Essay 1 Directions

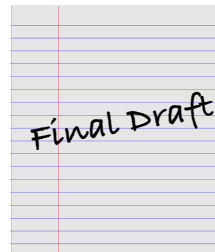
Please read carefully.

### General Explanation:

In this 3-week class you will be developing *one thesis-driven research essay* in two steps. “Thesis-driven” means that the essay is focused on *one clear central idea*. For the first essay, you will write a first draft. For the second essay, you will a final draft, incorporating corrections made by instructor on the first draft. You will also weave researched information into the final draft.



Essay 1



Essay 2

### Directions for Essay 1

#### Step 1:

Choose **one** of the works we read in the first week of class (“Salvation” by Langston Hughes, “Araby” by James Joyce, or “The Lesson” by Toni Cade Bambara). **Only write about one story.**

If you prefer, you may choose one of the alternate coming-of-age stories, “A&P” by John Updike **or** “A White Heron” by Sarah Orne Jewitt.



#### Step 2:

Decide on a thesis for your essay. How do you arrive at a **thesis**? Ask yourself the question: What point do I want to make about this story? Your point 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, characterization, or other features. Do not simply retell the plot of the story. Write a one-sentence thesis statement that conveys this idea. *Do not proceed to Step 3 until you have done this.*

#### Step 3:

Write a 2-3 page thesis-driven essay (500-750 words) adhering to MLA format and citation guidelines. Your essay must be analytical and stay focused on your thesis. *NOTE: Please write about literature in the present verb tense.*

**Step 4:**

Include a Works Cited page with entries for your chosen story (primary source)

**Step 5:**

Sign an Academic Integrity Pledge

Please follow the outline given below:

**Original Title****Introduction**

- Identification of title of story and author
- Very brief (1 or 2 sentences) overview of the story under discussion
- *Thesis Statement* (main idea of your essay)

**Body**

- Topic sentences to introduce the main idea of *each* paragraph
- Development of *thesis* with reference to the text of the literary work
- Support of *thesis* with at least two quotes from the story (primary source), using correct MLA citation: author's last name and page number if there is one; e.g. (Joyce 5). Notice that there is no comma between author's last name and page number.

**Conclusion**

- Restatement of *thesis* (not repetition)
- Encapsulation of main ideas
- Satisfying ending

**Works Cited**

Cite the primary sources for the two works of literature, using correct MLA format. I have pasted the citations below for your convenience.

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Notice that a *hanging indent* should be used. Indent each line after the first line. Here are the Works Cited entries for the works you may be writing about. Entries should be double-spaced.

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

[http://www.cengage.com/custom/static\\_contentOLC/s76656\\_76218lf/bambara.pdf](http://www.cengage.com/custom/static_contentOLC/s76656_76218lf/bambara.pdf).

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

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

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>

### **Academic Integrity Pledge**

In order to be graded, all essays must contain 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*