

Essay Introduction Directions

Please read carefully.

Choose **either** “Salvation” by Langston Hughes or “Araby” by James Joyce as the focus of your essay. As an alternative, you may write about one of two optional stories: “A White Heron” by Sarah Orne Jewett or “The Lesson” by Toni Cade Bambara. **Choose only one story.**

Write a 6-8 sentence thesis-driven introduction, adhering to MLA style. 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*.
Give your essay an interesting and original title.

Additional Information Below

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.

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

Joyce, James. “Araby.” Commonlit.org. CommonLit.

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

OR

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

http://www.cengage.com/custom/static_content

OLC/s76656_76218lf/bambara.pdf.

Jewett, Sarah Orne. *A White Heron*. Public-Library.uk, <http://public->

[library.uk/ebooks/105/91](http://public-library.uk/ebooks/105/91): pdf.

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

How to Come Up with a Thesis Statement

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, characterization, or other features of the text.

Do not simply retell the plot of the story.

Please write about literature in the present verb tense.