

Essay 4 Directions

For this final research assignment you must write a **thesis-driven** essay of 3-4 pages in length. "Thesis-driven" means that the essay is focused on *one clear central idea*.

In this case, you must find a second work of literature by one of the authors we have read this semester. The author can be a short story writer, playwright, or poet. 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. You must identify and discuss some significant element observable in both works. *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 Kate Chopin stories are about women. Your thesis must be an idea that can be developed into an analytical discussion.

Your essay must also include researched information from at least two additional **academic** sources (no blogs or dot.com sources).

- Use present verb tense when writing about literature.
- Do not wander from your thesis (main idea).
- Offer analysis and interpretation; do not simply retell the story or plot.
- Do not wander from your thesis (main idea)
- Follow classic essay structure: introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Do not wander from your thesis (main idea).
- Include at least two direct quotes from each work of literature.
- Do not wander from your thesis (main idea)
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- Include researched information and two direct quotes from at least one other **academic source**
- Give your essay a good title
- Do not wander from your thesis (main idea)

- Use correct MLA format throughout the essay. See formatting guide and video.
- Cite correctly for quoted material. Note: Short stories, plays, and poems are all cited differently. *See special guide for the relevant genre of literature*
- Do not wander from your thesis (main idea)
- Sign the Academic Integrity Pledge (Pledge appears below)
- Before submitting, please read this [entire document](#) and check your essay with this list of requirements.

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

General Outline for Essay

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)*

Body

- Topic sentences to introduce the main idea of *each* paragraph
- Development of *thesis* with reference to text of the literary work
- Support of *thesis* with reference and two direct quotes from secondary sources

Conclusion

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

Works Cited

Cite the website or book for your source, using correct MLA format. Note that short stories, poems and plays employ different in-text citation.

Works Cited entries will vary depending on your source. For example, for CommonLit sources the following Work Cited entry would look like the citation below (Of course, you will have to modify author, title, URL and access date for each different story or poem). I used “Araby” as an example. Below this you will find the citation for “A White Heron.”

Notice that a hanging indent should be used. Indent each line after the first line.

Hughes, Langston. “Salvation.” The Center for Fiction.org. Web. Accessed 00 Month 2020.

Jewitt, Sarah Orne. “A White Heron.” LearningEnglish.com. Accessed 00 Month 2019.

Joyce, James. “A&P.” *CommonLit.org*. CommonLit,
<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/a-p>. Accessed 00 Month 2019.

