

Writing a Character Analysis Essay

Think about your overall impressions of your character. What is he/she like? What are some of his/her most interesting/meaningful/significant personality traits? Why?

Choose three traits that your character exhibits throughout the story and create an essay that explains HOW you know these are his/her traits and WHY they are significant to the story (how they complicate the action or how they interact with other characters).

Refer to each section to complete your essay:

I. Introduction

- Introduce story's title and author:
- Give brief background: What is the story about?
- Thesis: In one sentence, state what your character's traits are and how/why they affect the story/themes/other characters.

II. How is this character revealed at the beginning of the novel?

1. What is trait 1? Include the adjective you chose to describe your character.
2. How do you know? (What do others say about the character? What does the character do?)
3. How does the author describe the character?
 0. Be sure to include 2 examples and 1 quotation from the book (Explain how the quote illustrates the character trait)
4. How does this trait affect the story? (How does this trait help or hurt the character's relationships with others? Does it help/hurt him personally? Does it get him into or out of trouble?)
Why?

III. How does the character change throughout the course of the novel?

1. What is trait 2? Include the adjective you chose to describe your character.
2. How do you know? Consider changes in action, attitudes, beliefs, or self-concept. (What do others say about the character? What does the character do?)
 0. Be sure to include 2 examples and 1 quotation from the book (Explain how the quote illustrates the character trait)
3. How does this trait affect the story? (How does this trait help or hurt the character's relationships with others? Does it help/hurt him personally? Does it get him into or out of trouble?)
4. Explain why this change is important to the character.

IV. Describe the character at the end of the novel.

1. What is trait 3? Include the adjective you chose to describe your character.
 2. How do you know? (What do others say about the character? What does the character do?)
 0. Be sure to include 2 examples and 1 quotation from the book (Explain how the quote illustrates how or why the character changed or stayed the same.)
- How does this trait affect the story? (How does this trait help or hurt the character's relationships with others? Does it help/hurt him personally? Does it get him into or out of trouble?)
3. Is the final change for better or worse? Why? If there is no change, is that good or bad for the character

V. Conclusion

A. Explain what you have learned through the experiences of this character and how you know about what this character has been through.

*This should be written in TPEQEA.

Rubric

	18-20	16-18	14-16	12
Introduction and Thesis	Introduction grabs the readers attention and includes a clear and thorough thesis.	Introduces the main ideas and provides a thesis with a focus but is a bit too broad.	Introduces the main ideas but lacks focus in ideas and thesis.	The main idea of the paper is unclear and the thesis is not legible.
Organization of Body Paragraphs	Each body paragraph has one main focus that is analyzed thoroughly and described in interesting language. Transitions smoothly between ideas.	Each body paragraph has one main focus with relevant elaboration. Transitions are present between ideas.	Body paragraphs have one focus but more elaboration is necessary Weak transitions between ideas.	Body paragraphs are not organized and tend to jump between ideas.
Textual Evidence	Each body paragraph includes a relevant quote that is directly relevant to the context.	There are at least 2 different quotes that are relevant to the context.	One source is used in reference to the context.	No outside sources included.
Conclusion	Ideas are wrapped up neatly and restated from earlier in essay. Author leaves reader with an idea to consider further.	The ideas are restated and leaves the reader to continue thinking.	The ideas are restated but nothing is said to leave the reader thinking.	Essay ends abruptly and does not restate previous ideas.
Formatting and GSP	Consistently MLA formatted. 1-2 errors in GSP	MLA formatted. 3-4 errors in GSP	Inconsistently formatted to MLA style. 5-6 errors in GSP	Does not use MLA and +6 errors in GSP

