

Short Story Essay Requirements

Your final draft should be 2 pages long, plus a Works Cited page.

Short Introduction and Conclusion

1. Your **hook** should be about *the topic*, not the story or article. There's no need to find a quote or do other research. It only needs to be a few sentences and include a **bridge sentence** to your thesis.
2. Your **thesis** should identify the titles and authors of both works and reveal the theme that both works share. Put quotation marks around short works like articles and short stories.
3. You may list your **premises** if you wish.
4. Your **conclusion** should restate your thesis and come full circle back to the hook.

Body Paragraphs

You may have two or three body paragraphs; this should not affect the length of your essay. Your **transitions** must make logical sense.

1. Organization Option 1
 - a. Body Paragraph 1 = Similarities in theme with examples
 - b. Body Paragraph 2 = *Insightful* difference with examples
2. Organization Option 2
 - a. Body Paragraph 1 = Similarity 1 with examples and discussion of any insightful differences
 - b. Body Paragraph 2 = Similarity 2 with examples and discussion of any insightful differences
 - c. Optional Body Paragraph 3? = Similarity 3 with examples and discussion of any insightful differences
3. Examples and Analysis
 - a. You should include **6-8 specific examples** from the texts in your essay.
 - b. You should only have **2-3 direct quotations**.
 - c. Your analysis should be insightful, not superficial.

Grammar and Style

1. Both **sources** must be **cited** in MLA format **on both your Works Cited page and in-text**.
2. Your 2-3 direct quotations must be **introduced correctly** in 2 different ways.
3. You must correctly use a **semicolon**, a **semicolon with a conjunctive adverb**, a **colon**, and an **en dash**. **Please highlight all of these so they're easy for me to pick out.**

Short Story Essay Rubric _____ /85 Name: _____

____ / 10 - Following the Process and Taking Feedback

- ☐ Filled out the Google Form to choose a topic.
- ☐ Shared a Google Doc with editing access to Mr. Bellini.
- ☐ Wrote a basic outline and took feedback.
- ☐ Wrote a rough draft and took feedback.
- ☐ Sought out extra help from Mr. Bellini or a Writing Center teacher? (+3) Initials/date: _____

____ / 75 - Short Story Essay Final Draft

72-75 – A+ Your essay is exceptionally well-written: your hook is efficient and intelligent; your thesis is clear and supported by details, your paragraphs are well-organized; your comparison is original and insightful; your pace and development are natural and captivating; sources are utilized and cited appropriately; all grammatical targets are met and there are no major errors; the style is fluid, varied, sophisticated; the conclusion ends the essay memorably.

70-71 – A Your essay is very well written but contains minor issues in one of the following areas:

- ☐ Focus (thesis, support relates to thesis)
- ☐ Organization (hook, transitions, topic sentence, paragraph organization)
- ☐ Content (basic details from stories, efficient summary, 2-3 direct quotes)
- ☐ Analysis (original, clear, insightful)
- ☐ Style (clarity, voice, word choices, sentence structure, efficiency of language)
- ☐ Grammar (required punctuation, highlighted requirements, sentence structure, punctuation, usage)

68-69 – A- Your essay is very well written but contains significant issues in two of the following areas:

- ☐ Focus (thesis, support relates to thesis)
- ☐ Organization (hook, transitions, topic sentence, paragraph organization)
- ☐ Content (basic details from stories, efficient summary, 2-3 direct quotes)
- ☐ Analysis (original, clear, insightful)
- ☐ Style (clarity, voice, word choices, sentence structure, efficiency of language)
- ☐ Grammar (required punctuation, highlighted requirements, sentence structure, punctuation, usage)

64-67 – B+ Your essay is well written but contains significant issues in more than one of the following areas:

- ☐ Focus (thesis, support relates to thesis)
- ☐ Organization (hook, transitions, topic sentence, paragraph organization)
- ☐ Content (basic details from stories, efficient summary, 2-3 direct quotes)
- ☐ Analysis (original, clear, insightful)
- ☐ Style (clarity, voice, word choices, sentence structure, efficiency of language)
- ☐ Grammar (required punctuation, highlighted requirements, sentence structure, punctuation, usage)

60-63 – B- Your essay is generally well written but contains significant issues in several of the following areas:

- ☐ Focus (thesis, support relates to thesis)
- ☐ Organization (hook, transitions, topic sentence, paragraph organization)
- ☐ Content (basic details from stories, efficient summary, 2-3 direct quotes)
- ☐ Analysis (original, clear, insightful)
- ☐ Style (clarity, voice, word choices, sentence structure, efficiency of language)
- ☐ Grammar (required punctuation, highlighted requirements, sentence structure, punctuation, usage)

56-59 – C+ Your essay is passable but contains significant issues in more than one of the following areas:

- ☐ Focus (thesis, support relates to thesis)
- ☐ Organization (hook, transitions, topic sentence, paragraph organization)
- ☐ Content (basic details from stories, efficient summary, 2-3 direct quotes)
- ☐ Analysis (original, clear, insightful)
- ☐ Style (clarity, voice, word choices, sentence structure, efficiency of language)
- ☐ Grammar (required punctuation, highlighted requirements, sentence structure, punctuation, usage)

53-55 – C- Your essay is passable but contains many significant issues in more than one of the following areas:

- ☐ Focus (thesis, support relates to thesis)
- ☐ Organization (hook, transitions, topic sentence, paragraph organization)
- ☐ Content (basic details from stories, efficient summary, 2-3 direct quotes)
- ☐ Analysis (original, clear, insightful)
- ☐ Style (clarity, voice, word choices, sentence structure, efficiency of language)
- ☐ Grammar (required punctuation, highlighted requirements, sentence structure, punctuation, usage)

52 and lower – D and below Your essay fails to meet basic requirements and contains significant errors in all areas.

Comments: _____
