

Instructions Paper 2

Topic for Paper 2: How does a dominant literary element (**or literary elements**) help the reader to understand a common theme found in two short stories?

Examples of literary elements: character, character arc, author's use of selected point of view/narration, setting (this can include historical context), conflict, tone, plot structure: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution; figurative language which can include symbolism, simile, metaphor, irony; diction, repetition, etc.

You will develop a paper that answers this question and demonstrates the following competencies for writing and literature:

Competencies

- I can read literature for a purpose.
- I can annotate digital or print materials to demonstrate reading and summary skills.
- I can identify a common theme in two short stories.
- I can identify one to three examples from each story to support the theme.
- I can write a thesis statement that clearly identifies the titles of the stories, their authors, the theme, and what my paper will discuss about the stories and the theme.
- I can write clear topic sentences for my paragraphs that let the reader know what the paragraph will discuss.
- I can write paragraphs that explain how the examples from the stories support the topic sentence of the paragraph.
- I can organize a comparison and contrast paper by presenting paragraphs in a logical and interesting fashion using one of two methods for comparison and contrast: story-by-story or idea-by-idea.
- I can write sentences in standard American English that clearly express my ideas.
- I can document my use of the material from the stories within the paper and on a Works Cited page in the style of MLA formatting.

General Instructions:

In Paper 1, you developed an initial thesis statement that considered how a theme is shown in a short story. In Paper 2, you will be building on that discussion by considering and analyzing a second story. You will be developing a **comparison/contrast paper** that focuses on bringing in appropriate material from Paper 1 and your stories. **The main objective is to analyze how literary elements are used in each story to emphasize a common theme that emerges in both.** Depending on your story selection, you may discover that each author utilizes a similar element and/or dissimilar ones but the common theme between the two stories still emerges. You will be using the feedback you received on Paper 1 from your instructor to help you revise any material you may want to use in Paper 2.

For Paper 2, choose another story that would work with your previously chosen theme and short story. In other words, if your first story was under the topic of "Courage," you would choose a second story from beneath that topic. Then, as you did for Paper 1, you will workshop the following areas in the weekly discussions.

Week 5: Intro & Thesis: Your essay should have a clearly delineated, engaging opening paragraph. Your thesis statement (which ideally should occur at the end of the intro), should include both stories, the literary element(s) presented either explicitly or implicitly, and the common theme. You will work on the thesis, pattern of organization, and outline in the Week 5 discussion. Topic sentences for the outline will also be reviewed. You will also be applying the critical reading skills you've been developing throughout the course.

Week 6, 7, and 8: Development: The development or body of the paper will focus on analyzing how the literary element(s) connects to the meaning of the theme in both stories. During Weeks 6, 7, and 8, in the discussions, you will review the following writing strategies to develop your paper. The paragraphs are becoming more complex because you will be using the two stories (instead of one) to develop and present your ideas.

- development of body paragraphs that include strong topic sentences and transitions that sets up comparison/contrast of the two stories and their shared theme. Comparative diction should be utilized to further cohesiveness and, again, emphasize the objective of comparison. Some examples are: also, in the same manner, similarly, likewise, but, however, on the other hand, in contrast, nevertheless, still, even though, on the contrary, yet, although, etc.
- development and management of using signal phrases and/or signal sentences for using multiple sources in writing
- inclusion of claims and evidence that help to develop your argument
- using keywords and quotations as development

Throughout Weeks 5 to 8: Sentence Level and MLA: Your writing should be carefully proofed for sentence-level concerns. It should be formatted and documented according to MLA documentation in the form of parenthetical citations and a Works Cited page. Throughout the writing of Paper 2, you will be applying these grammatical and documentation skills you learned from Paper 1 to Paper 2.

Reminder: As in Paper 1, remember that your reader has read the story and is familiar with the plot and literary elements. You do not have to spend time on summary or providing definitions of your chosen element or elements. Instead, your development should explain and analyze how the element(s) helps your reader understand the theme.

Reflection: When complete, upload your work to the Assignment Folder within the link "Paper 2" by the deadline. After your Works Cited, provide an overview of your writing process for this paper.

Include a paragraph or two on your writing process, including what you learned about writing in moving from Paper 1 to Paper 2.

Word Count: 800-1,000 words. **You may go beyond this maximum only if it enriches the analysis.**

****There is no outside research required for this paper. Your analysis should be your own critical thinking and interpretations supported by your primary sources (your two selected stories).**