

EGL 102—Assignment 1

Regardless of which option you choose your essay will follow these basic guidelines: **Three full pages**, approximately 900 words—**size 12 print—double-spaced**. Use a common font such as Times New Roman, Cambria, or Calibri, but **do not use Courier or Courier New**—the font on this page is Calibri. Regardless of font selection, make sure your essay reaches three full pages in length. Be sure to focus on a single topic—for example:

- developing character
- symbolism
- foreshadowing
- setting
- theme of the story
- climax
- effective use of a variety of character types
- antagonists
- internal and external conflicts
- complication
- exposition

The suggested topics above are not meant to limit your choices but rather to help you find a subject for your writing.

Once you choose your focus, be aware that a discussion of most topics will be best done by weaving a variety of terms into the development of your essay—see page 4 of this assignment. Examples of this development will be discussed in class. Bring the stories we have read and any other documents you have created concerning the stories, such as notes you took while reading the stories, to each class meeting. Begin writing your paper soon, so you can bring work in progress with you to class, and be sure to examine **significant actions** in the stories you select that inform you about their literary significance. Considering the stories as real events will allow you to move past a simple discussion of the plot and to demonstrate your clear and full understanding of the story or stories about which you choose to write. Be sure to mention the authors' full names and the stories' titles in your opening paragraph, and illustrate your observations with **brief, specific examples** from the stories. **If you present quotes from the stories, restrict yourself to brief quotes and present those quotes in MLA style as found in A Writer's Reference.** Be serious in your approach. This assignment is looking for your scholarly reaction to what you have read, so **do not include information from outside sources** unless you discuss it with me first. If you include outside information without my permission, your essay will receive a grade of F. Refer to your handouts for full definitions of appropriate terms and for hints concerning useful elements to include in your paper. Furthermore, **use appropriate literary terms in writing your essay, or your essay's score will be reduced significantly.** Write in third person and present tense—for example, "Felicia bonds with the sitter quickly because she has no motherly support in her life". In essence, you will write as if you are standing in the middle of an ongoing event that you examine as it unfolds and as if the characters and events are real. Also refer to *readers* rather than *we* or *us*. **Present short story titles in quotation marks**, for example: "The Lottery". The links to stories on my Web site are underlined only because they are hyperlinks so **do not underline or italicize story titles**. Furthermore, do not begin with dictionary definitions, and avoid simply summarizing the plot while writing either assignment option. We all know what happened in the stories, and if you respond in this manner, your essay will receive a grade of F. Try to discover something new about the stories. Do not simply repeat what you

heard in class discussions unless you want a low score. Discover something unique about the stories on your own. **Finally, read biographies for all authors. Biographies for authors can be found by googling the author's name followed by the word *biography*. Never use Wikipedia as a source.**

This assignment provides you with two choices for writing about the stories we have read:

Option 1

Story Analysis

This option calls for you to thoroughly analyze one of the stories we have read, not unlike what we will have done in class. However, your analysis should focus on specific observations concerning plot, character, setting, theme, or another **single literary topic** of your choosing as connected to the story you explore in your essay. This essay should inform your reader concerning the depth of your understanding of the significance of the story about which you choose to write. **Reread the story with your topic in mind.**

Option 2

Comparison of Two Stories

Choose two of the short stories we have read, and based upon that choice, write an essay that compares and contrasts an element common to both stories (for instance: similar protagonists, use of symbolism or foreshadowing, setting, or the themes of the stories). **Do not use** "Story A versus Story B" or "A Comparison of Story A and Story B" as the title of your essay, and avoid obvious statements such as, "The stories have their similarities and differences." Present compared elements closely together—within the same paragraph or in adjoining paragraphs—so your reader can easily follow your reasoning. Develop compared elements equally, and create a single focus. **Reread the two stories** you choose in order to refresh your memory of events from the stories that are pertinent to your topic.

Required Reading for Both Writing Options:

We will discuss three of these six stories in class. All six stories can be found on my Web site.

- "Guests of the Nation" by Frank O'Connor
- "Hills Like White Elephants" by Ernest Hemingway
- "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson
- "A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner
- "Winter Night" by Kay Boyle
- "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Bring annotated copies of the stories and the notes you take while reading each story to class on assigned days. **If you don't prepare appropriately, you will be dismissed from class for the day and will be counted as absent.**

Reread this assignment sheet multiple times while writing your essay.

Read the essay submission procedure handout.

Due Dates for Both Options:

Two copies of the peer editing draft are due when class begins on **2/14/2018**.

The final draft is due **2/21/2018** when class begins.

Do not ask when graded essays will be returned.

Download Assignment Two by 2/18/2018.

What you must accomplish in writing this assignment:

- **Choose a limited literary topic**
- **Use appropriate literature terms**
- **Create a simple argument—Claim, Support, Warrant**
- **Eliminate unneeded passive verbs**
- **Don't write a five-paragraph essay**
- **Follow the assignment's instructions closely**
- **Prepare for class discussions as assigned**
- **Meet all deadlines**

Focus on any of the literature terms on handout.	Planning: This is where you choose which ideas to include.	Writing the Essay
<p>Example: Focus on a developing character from one of the six stories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Hills Like White Elephants" by Ernest Hemingway • "Winter Night" by Kay Boyle • "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson • "A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner • "Guests of the Nation" by Frank O'Connor • "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman 	<p>Planning must look at how your focus connects to the other terms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round character • Antagonists • Protagonists • Conflict (external and internal) • Complication • Climax • Denouement • Plot • Setting • Theme • Exposition <p>Choose sufficient connecting ideas to write an essay long enough to satisfy the assignment.</p>	<p>Create an introduction that announces your literary topic clearly in the final sentence and that mentions the author and title—spelling counts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—</p> <p>Create paragraphs that develop individual parts of the connections you identified during planning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—</p> <p>Write a conclusion that wraps the assignment up and that echoes the thesis without boringly repeating it.</p>