

**ENG 1121**  
**ESSAY #1 – Rhetorical Analysis**

*Assignment:*

So far in this course, we have read four short stories: Bruce Holland Rogers' "Three Soldiers," Kate Chopin's "Ripe Figs," Michele Serros' "Senior Picture Day," and Kate Chopin's "Story of an Hour." From the four, choose your favorite and write a 600-700 word essay (about three pages) in which you argue why someone unfamiliar with the work should read it. As you compose your argument, consider this question: what can we learn as writers from studying this particular piece of literature?

The goal of a rhetorical analysis is to articulate *how* the author writes, not merely what he or she wrote. To do this, you will analyze the strategies the author uses to achieve his or her purpose. You may want to focus on the author's choice of diction, tone, style, or figurative language in your essay, or you can choose another element entirely. Remember: you must incorporate direct quotations from the text into your essay; point to the evidence that caused you to respond to the work the way you did.

*Organization:*

Your introductory paragraph should give an overview of the paper's topic and should include a thesis statement. Each body paragraph in the essay should be organized around topic sentences, followed by supporting details. Finish with a strong, well-developed conclusion.

*Format Guidelines:*

- The paper should be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced and with 1-inch margins.
- A cover page is not necessary. Put your name, the course and the date in the upper left-hand corner of the first page.
- Be sure to add page numbers and staple all pages *before* coming to class.
- Use parenthetical documentation (MLA style) to cite any quotations.
  - o Example: When quoting a text, you will want to show that "this is a quoted sentence from hypothetical page twenty-five" (Author 25).

*Grading:*

There are five main features that I will look for when grading your essays:

- 1) A clear title and an introduction that includes a powerful thesis.
- 2) A clear argument that includes specific, well defined reasons.
- 3) Use of well-structured sentences, clean paragraphs, and proper grammar and spelling.
- 4) Organization of the material.
- 5) Incorporation at least four direct quotations from the story into your essay, as well as a works cited page.

*Due Dates:*

Wednesday, Sept. 29: Outline and First Draft due in class, two pages minimum. Bring in 2 copies.  
Monday, Oct 6 : Final Draft Due in class, including your process work.

## FIVE-PARAGRAPH ESSAY OUTLINE

### **I. Introduction**

- A. Introduce the topic by grabbing the audience's attention
- B. Narrow the topic by leading into the thesis statement
- C. Thesis Statement

### **II. Body Paragraph 1**

- A. Topic Sentence (with Transition relating this to what came before)
- B. Reason/Detail/Fact
  - 1. Explain
  - 2. Elaborate
- C. Reason/Detail/Fact
  - 1. Explain
  - 2. Elaborate
- D. Conclusion

### **III. Body Paragraph 2**

- A. Topic Sentence (with Transition relating this to what came before)
- B. Reason/Detail/Fact
  - 1. Explain
  - 2. Elaborate
- C. Reason/Detail/Fact
  - 1. Explain
  - 2. Elaborate
- D. Conclusion

### **IV. Body Paragraph 3**

- A. Topic Sentence (with Transition relating this to what came before)
- B. Reason/Detail/Fact
  - 1. Explain
  - 2. Elaborate
- C. Reason/Detail/Fact
  - 1. Explain
  - 2. Elaborate
- D. Conclusion

### **V. Conclusion**

- A. Summary Statement
- B. Clincher Statement