

# Answer Key

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## Character Analysis Essay

must scan

What is it?

- The character analysis essay provides the reader with a critical interpretation of a character in a literary work.
- Interpret: to explain

It is NOT a Summary of plot!!!

How to Analyze a Character

- Analyzing a character is the process of explaining a character's personality, motives, and how he or she changes throughout a literary work.

Pay close attention to the character's:

Statements	<u>ACTIONS</u>	Thoughts
<u>Beliefs</u>	Motive	<u>change in personality</u>

Use the literary work as evidence to prove your opinion of the character.

## THE INTRODUCTION

Hook the reader's interest  
Strategies to use...

Brief summarization	<u>How has he...</u>	<u>Give historical background</u>
<u>Use quotation</u>		Ask a question

### Introduction-First Sentence Example:

Elie Wiesel's memoir Night reveals his experiences and memories during the Holocaust between 1941-1945.

- The introduction allows you to give the reader a clear and specific direction of your essay.

## THE THESIS

- states the main purpose of the essay (to analyze character)
- is stated in the last sentence of your introduction

## THE BODY

...is divided into paragraphs .

Remember the body paragraph format!

Steps:

1. topic sentence
2. (cause & effect)
3. Quote or example
4. interpretation (why it matters?)
5. Clincher

- In order to prove your thesis, you must support your topic sentences with \_\_\_\_\_ and in-text citations (quotes from the book) from the literary work.

Interpretation!!!

- When you use an in-text citation (quote) you must provide interpretation, not a summary, about how this quote is appropriate to the development of the topic and thesis.

## THE CONCLUSION

Restate your topic.

Summarize your main points.

Do not introduce any new information in the conclusion!

## IN-TEXT CITATIONS

Quotes of no more than two sentences can be included in the body of your essay using quotation marks

<sup>st</sup>  
1 Time:

According to Elie Wiesel in *Night*, "Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever" (22).

<sup>nd</sup>  
2 Time

As Wiesel walks towards the pit of fire, he breaks from the narrative to say, "Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever" (Wiesel 22).

## FORMATTING

- In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, my name, the class title, and the date.
- Double space again and center the title. Don't underline or put it in quotation marks.
- Double-space between the title and the first line of the text.

## TITLE OF ESSAY

- Inform and interest
- Should suggest the focus of your essay