

Formal Sentence Outline about a Short Story

ANALYZING SHORT STORIES

TSGW, CH 10

Purposes: Primary

To interpret a short story (fiction--literature), explaining the story's meaning or significance. This meaning or significance (the main point/claim) is expressed in a thesis

- To present a thesis. Readers need to know what you see as the story's main point(s), its significance
- To analyze the story in order to offer support (i.e. reasons) for the thesis. Readers need to understand how you arrive at an interpretation. [A literary analysis is form of argument: claim (thesis) + reasons] (TSGW, pp 404-07)

To help readers think about the story and to help them understand it more fully

Purposes: Secondary

To inform readers about the plot (only when needed) and other details (e.g., historical, biographical) that are relevant to the interpretation. Note: A literary analysis is not a report and should not simply summarize a literary work's plot

To persuade readers to accept your interpretation even though not all readers will

Context, Occasion, Medium, Genre, Audience

You will write a formal sentence outline for a 4-5-page essay. You will also write the introduction (including the thesis statement) for the essay. However, you will **not** have to write the rest of the essay.

Audience—see website (Course Notes). Where might a literary analysis about a sports story be published?

Occasion: Not time sensitive

Context: Social and cultural issues, e.g. role of sports, coming of age/adolescence, sexuality, homosexuality/masculinity, past and present, second chances]

Genre: Literary Analysis (Conventions?)

Medium: You will type your formal sentence outline, following the conventions for this type of outline—see TSGW, p 430-31

For writing a formal sentence outline, see TSGW and RW (pgs on syllabus); see Course Notes: “Notes on Thesis Statement, Outline, and Quotations”

Writing Considerations: Formal Sentence Outline

How do you construct a thesis statement for a literary analysis? Where does the thesis go in the essay? (Your outline should reflect this.) See RW: 9-10

How should you organize a literary analysis? How much of your essay should focus on plot? Analysis and examples?

How should you organize your evidence—reasons/analysis, examples, quotations? Cite quotations (parenthetical references) in your outline? (We'll discuss this in class.)

We'll discuss how these questions apply to/will be reflected in your outline: When should you use direct quotations from the story? How many? How do you integrate quotations into your essay? See RW: 293-96; 387-95/TSGW: 553-55. What viewpoint should you use? First person? Third person? What tense should you use to write about your story? See RW: 220.