

# English Comp and Literature 1002

## Short Fiction Essay Prompt

For fiction Essay #1, you are to compose a three-page paper (69- line minimum framed by 1 inch margins) discussing the major fiction elements which contribute to the overall effect of the literary work assigned to your group. Make sure to identify the theme of the work. Remember that the statement of theme is a two-part sentence. The first part is specific to the short story, and the second part is a general statement regarding the comment the story makes about the human condition. The theme of "The Story of an Hour" can be stated as I have done in the following example.

**Example:** In "The Story of an Hour," by Kate Chopin, //// the theme deals with the devastating effects of one person trying to control the life of another and the ultimate importance of personal freedom.

In the preceding example, the sentence is divided in half by the four forward slashes. The first half of the sentence is the specific part of the sentence which identifies the story and its author. The second half of the sentence is the general portion, which applies to the human condition.

Once you have completed the preceding tasks, it is time to start thinking about a thesis statement. Please prepare that thesis statement as I have directed in class using the following formula: X is true because of a, b, and c. Remember that X is the topic of your essay, true is the assertion made about that topic, and the remainder of the sentence contains the reasons or causes.

**Example:** The theme of the importance of freedom is most clearly conveyed in "The Story of an Hour" by the author's use of symbols, setting, syntax, and diction.

Your essay must contain at least five parts (or sections), but it may contain more, as would be the result of the preceding thesis statement containing six sections. The introduction and conclusion must each be at least three sentences in length (probably more). The body paragraphs must each be at least eight to 10 sentences in length. It is possible that each section of the paper might be more than one paragraph. Remember not to use "neon signs" such as "in conclusion" to signal the beginning of the concluding paragraph.

Your paper must also include a Works Cited page containing a minimum of three entries: a reference to the story itself and at least two outside academic journal sources.