

English 1302
Professor Dybala
Research Paper Formal Outline

The following outline provides the structure for your research paper and ensures that you complete all nine required paragraphs. You may alter the order of the quotes or present additional quotes if you prefer after paragraph one, but you must include at least two quotes in each body paragraph of the confirmation section and at least one quote in the concession paragraph and one in the refutation for a total of a minimum of ten quotes in the paper—four-six from the primary source and five-six from a variety of secondary sources. You may include additional quotes in the confirmation and concession / refutation sections. Well-developed papers may include as many as fifteen quotes, but you must introduce the quote in the same sentence that you state it and discuss each part of it in the next 1-3 sentences before introducing another quote. **Your paper should have a minimum of nine paragraphs and must be four to six typed pages using a 12 point Times New Roman font.**

I. Introduction

- A. State the **author, title** and an **intriguing aspect** of the literary work to arouse interest in your topic.
- B. Narrow the topic with a more **specific focus or question**.
- C. State **the thesis** by **narrowing the topic more specifically** and stating **your claim (argumentative interpretation)** followed by a minimum of **four subtopics** that chart the **organizing principles** of your essay.

II. Exposition (Ethical appeal)

A-G. In approximately 5-7 sentences present any background information about the author or the historical period or any definitions of terms to prepare the reader for your interpretation. Include a topic sentence that describes the kind of information you are including. Add an in-text citation for the source(s) of the information and a works cited entry on the last page of your paper for the complete bibliographic information.

- A. State the topic: What kind of background information will you describe?
- B.
- C. Introduce a quote and state it.
- D.
- E. Relate this information to your thesis.
- F.
- G.

III. Confirmation Section—

Four body paragraphs that provide the best evidence (right reasons) to accept your interpretation of the short story. The **four paragraph body** should include at least one quote from your primary source (the short story) in each paragraph and one or two quotes from secondary sources in each paragraph.

Subtopic One-- develop in 9-11 sentences

- A. **Topic Sentence**-Re-introduce the first subtopic stated in your thesis and add your argumentative **claim**.

- B. Add information to further clarify the significance of this claim
- C. Introduce and state a **quote** from the **story** as evidence of your claim.
- D. Discuss the quote in 1 or 2 sentences.
- E. Introduce an additional **quote** from **secondary source #1 (journal article/library resource)** to support this claim.
- F. Discuss the quote in 1 or more sentences.
- G. Introduce another quote from another **secondary source #2** to develop your interpretation.
- H. Discuss a particular word choice in the quote to zoom in on its significance.
- I.-K. Close the discussion with 1-3 sentences explaining your interpretation of the significance of these three quotes and how they provide evidence to support your topic sentence.

IV. Confirmation (2nd subtopic-- develop in 9-11 sentences)

- A. **Topic Sentence**-Reintroduce the second subtopic stated in your thesis and add your argumentative **claim**.
- B. Add a detail to clarify the significance of this claim.
- C. Introduce and state a **quote** from the **primary source** as evidence of your claim.
- D. Discuss your general **interpretation** of the quoted passage.
- E. Continue to discuss the quote by analyzing the significance of several **key words or a symbol** in the quote.
- F. Introduce a **quote** from **another analytical article (secondary source #3)** to add **expert evidence** and support your **claim**.
- G-H. Fully discuss the quote in 1-2 sentences.
- I-K.. Conclude the paragraph with a discussion of the relationship of these two quotes or add a 3rd quote to further support the topic sentence. Do not end the paragraph with a quote. The final sentence of the paragraph should synthesize how the quotes reinforce your claim in the topic sentence of the paragraph.

V. Confirmation (3rd subtopic-- develop in 9-11 sentences)

- A. **Topic Sentence**-Re-introduce the third subtopic that you stated in your thesis and add your argumentative **claim**.
- B. Add information to further clarify the significance of this claim
- C. Introduce and state a **quote** from the **story** as evidence of your claim.
- D. Discuss the quote in 1 or 2 sentences.
- E. Introduce an additional **quote** from **secondary source #4** to support this claim.
You may use a new article or another quote from one of the articles you have already introduced.
- F. Discuss the quote in 1 or 2 sentences.
- G. Introduce another quote from a secondary source to develop your interpretation.
- H. Discuss a particular word choice in the quote to zoom in on its significance.
- I.-K. Close the discussion with 1-3 sentences explaining your interpretation of the significance of these three quotes and how they provide evidence to support your topic sentence.

VI. Confirmation (4th subtopic—develop in 9-11 sentences)

A-K. Follow the pattern in body paragraph I or II to develop the 4th subtopic.
(Your essay may have 2 more subtopic paragraphs following this confirmation format.)

VII. Concession—Address the strengths of another interpretation of this story.

- A. Topic Sentence: Acknowledge a **counterargument** to your argumentative thesis that presents a strong **alternative interpretation**. Focus on a particular secondary Source. Identify the author, title and the claim that you find most compelling.
- B-D. In 2-3 sentences, discuss the strengths of an alternative view to your thesis.
- E. Introduce a quote from an alternative interpretation of the story (secondary source # 5).
- F. Explain a significant aspect of this quote.
- G. Transition to your refutation of this alternative interpretation.

VIII. Refutation—Reject the interpretation of the article that you acknowledged in your concession by revealing a flaw in it.

- A. Topic Sentence: State the major reason the counterarguments are not as powerful as the thesis that you have asserted.
- B. **Emphasize why your thesis** is more accurate than this alternative.
- C. Explain any **flaws or oversights** in the other interpretation of the story in 1-2 sentences. You may also introduce a quote that disproves the alternative interpretation
- D-E. Reaffirm the strengths of your thesis.

IX. Conclusion

- A. State the **thesis** in a new way with a **bolder and more definitive purpose**.
- B-D. Add a memorable comment to direct the reader's attention more fully on your interpretive message. Do **not** introduce new evidence or quotes in the conclusion.