

Lesley University

CLITR-1100.06

Spring 2010

Deets

### Checklist for Fiction Paper

1) Thesis:

\*should be the last sentence of the first paragraph.

\*should be *specific* and *argumentative*.

\*should be narrowly worded so that you can prove the thesis in the pages allotted to this assignment.

2) Integrating Evidence:

\*prior to integrating a direct quotation, students should provide *context* for the evidence, or in other words the student should provide a few sentences which place the evidence within a scene or situation.

\*students must properly introduce the speaker of a line of dialogue, or if the narrator is "speaking" the student should indicate where the evidence occurs in the story.

EX 1: Okonkwo said, "\_\_\_\_\_ " (Achebe 244).

EX 2: Okonkwo was angry with Ekwefi for feeding Ezinma eggs: "\_\_\_\_\_ narrator's description \_\_\_\_\_ " (Achebe 24).

\*students should not summarize the plot of the story unnecessarily! the context of the story should be integrated as it is relevant to your *evidence* or your *thesis*.

\*following a direct quotation or paraphrase of evidence, you must interpret the evidence as it relates to your thesis or overarching argument.

3) Body Paragraph Structure:

\*1 paragraph = 1 idea or subpoint.

\* every paragraph should center on some form of evidence, so that it takes this kind of structure.

PROVIDE CONTEXT FOR THE EVIDENCE.

INTRODUCE EVIDENCE PROPERLY.

\*EVIDENCE\*

INTERPRET EVIDENCE.

REINTERPRET THE THESIS (given what this new evidence contributes to your thesis.)

4) Informal Language:

a) Eliminate the use of I: on the paper you're reviewing, cross out the part of the sentence which includes the "I" phrase:

~~I believe that~~ the Misfit is a bad man.

b) eliminate the use of "we" and use "the reader" but do not OVERUSE THIS.

c) eliminate of "you" or "our"--keep personal pronouns out of your paper.

d) avoid using contractions--- don't = do not.

5) Avoid generalizations:

a) don't refer to "society today" OR make broad statements about "people"

EX: People today are just too materialistic.

GOOD EX: Both O'Connor and Lawrence raise questions about the impact of materialism on modern human experience. (IN REFERENCE TO LITERATURE.)

6) More on Integrating Evidence:

a) Put the evidence in the context of the story. (Where are we at in the story and why is this relevant?)

b) NEVER refer to the evidence as a "quote" (cross off in the paper you're reviewing.

c) the sentence just after the quotation is *always* your interpretation. (you don't need to say "this quote means" or "this shows.") ~~THIS shows/means~~ Okonkwo has focused on his masculine and violent side at the expense of his emotional stability.

d) NEVER end a paragraph on a citation. (the last two sentences are YOUR analysis, which is what you're graded on.

7) Transitions: In the last sentence of every body paragraph, you should refer to a key word (or a synonym of a key word) in your thesis.

8) Write Active Sentences:

a) Circle all of the "to be" verbs. (is are was were.)

b) Circle all the places where the subject of the sentence is AN ABSTRACTION or an object.

For Example: The violence in the story is extreme.

c) turn the opening of an inactive sentence into a CONDITIONAL PHRASE... (the part of the sentence that sets up the conditions (time/place) of the action) then make a PERSON the subject and have him DOING something.

Since violence is part of the Misfit's past, he talks to the grandmother with gun in hand.

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d) REMEMBER THAT IN EVERY SENTENCE THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE A PERSON OR GROUP OF PEOPLE, AND THE VERB SHOULD BE *ACTIVE*.

8) Punctuation:

\*Short stories are in "" and nothing else. "The Rocking Horse Winner"

\*a comma cannot separate two complete sentences.

\*SET OFF CONDITIONAL OR INTRODUCTORY PHRASES WITH A COMMA,

EX: When the grandmother recognizes the Misfit, she immediately puts the family in danger. At this point in the story, \_\_\_\_\_.

**Grading Rubric:**

\*Originality and Focus of Argument.

\*Proper and Effective Use of Evidence from the Text.

\*Structure: Strong and Effective Link Between Thesis and Transitions between ideas/paragraphs.

\*Interpretations of Evidence: Original, Close Readings of the Text (last two-three sentences of every body paragraph)

\*Language and Grammar: Tone of the Essay is Scholarly and the Student Makes Effective Use of Varied Sentence Structure and Proper Punctuation.