

Entry 37: Short Story Essay—Thesis and Assertion Statements

<p>Overview</p> <p>Topic and Thesis</p> <p>Sample Thesis</p> <p>Model Thesis</p>	<p>You will combine all of your work with literary elements to help you develop an analytical essay about one of the short stories we have read. By this point, you should have already selected a story and character upon which to focus.</p> <p>The analytical challenge for this essay is to show how the development of one character helps readers understand one of the themes the story explores. You may use the following model for your thesis statement if you wish. You will need to fill in the blanks with appropriate information that works with your interpretation of the story.</p> <p>Through the development of <u>Maggie</u> in the story “<u>Everyday Use</u>,” <u>Alice Walker</u> explores the idea that <u>success should be measured by respect for one’s family</u>.</p> <p>Through the development of <u><insert character’s name></u> in the story <u><insert story title></u>, <u><insert author’s name></u> explores the idea that <u><insert theme ideas></u>.</p>
<p>My Thesis</p>	<p>Write your own thesis statement:</p>
<p>Developing your Ideas: Body Paragraphs and Assertions</p>	<p>To develop and support this thesis, a writer might help readers see a progression of ideas throughout the story in the body of the essay. Each sample assertion statement provided would begin one body paragraph in the essay:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the beginning of the story, <u>Maggie’s actions</u> reveal <u>her shyness and lack of self-confidence, marking her as less successful than her sister Dee by traditional standards</u>. 2. In the middle of the story, <u>Maggie’s words</u> reveal <u>that she has an important role as a keeper of the family’s history</u>. 3. At the end of the story, <u>Maggie’s actions</u> reveal <u>a willingness to share her family’s legacy with her sister, and mark her as a success</u>.
<p>Body Paragraphs—Model</p>	<p>You may use the models to help you develop your assertion statements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the beginning of the story <a. _____>’s <b. _____> reveal <c. _____> 2. In the middle of the story, <a. _____>’s <b. _____> reveal <c. _____> 3. At the end of the story, <a. _____>’s <b. _____> reveal <c. _____> <p>For each assertion, insert appropriate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Character name</u> b. <u>Characterization technique</u> (actions and deeds, spoken or unspoken thoughts, physical appearance, reactions of other characters, narrator’s thoughts) c. <u>Brief opinion statement about how the development of this character helps show the theme in the story</u>.
<p>Developing Assertion Statements</p>	<p>Look at your thesis statement carefully, the model assertions, and then carefully craft your assertion statements on the next page of your journal. It may take several attempts. Refer to potential quotations from your story to make sure you can support your opinions with evidence. Rework your statements until you get them right.</p>