

DCE – CHARACTER ESSAY

Concept: Select a single character from one of the three books you have chosen to read for the DCE assignment. The subject character must be a major character. Often, protagonists are selected. The character essay will explore a particular facet of the human condition.* Essentially, your character essay will answer the following question: What is my author claiming about the human condition, and how does my subject character reflect these beliefs?

Thesis: The thesis must contain an active premise (see worksheet regarding active premise).

Character Arc: Character essays best lend themselves to the analysis of dynamic characters. A dynamic character is one that develops/changes over the course of the work. This character gains insight and knowledge through their experiences in overcoming internal and external challenges. The character essay can concentrate on the journey of the character. It can include episodes from the beginning, middle, and end to show initial stage, process of change, and final stage of character development.

Format:

- 1) Introduction
 - a. ICD
 - b. define subject character and the journey they undertake
 - c. thesis statement
- 2) Initial Stage
 - a. Establish how the character acts, believes, or behaves in the initial stage.
 - b. Cite evidence from the text.
- 3) Agents of Change
 - a. Explore the causes that bring about the change in the character.
 - b. Cite evidence from the text.
- 4) Knowledge Gained
 - a. Explore how the character develops/changes.
 - b. Cite evidence from the text.
- 5) Conclusion
 - a. Link character change to other literary characters, the human condition, or universal truths.
 - b. What is the take away from the characters journey?

Page Limit: 4 – 6 pages

Initial Draft Due: _____

Final Draft Due: _____

* Human condition... the experiences/conditions unique to being human and living with other human beings. The human condition includes such concepts as... faith, love, mortality, anger, humor, loneliness