**Research Essay Guidelines**

Do not use “I” or other personal pronouns in your essay (although I will make an exception for the last sentence if you want to directly ask your readers a question).

Avoid summary! You are analyzing pieces of the story to prove your interpretation and thesis. Pretend your reader knows what happens (because they do). Instead of walking through the plot, detail your perspective.

Feel free to take one of your three in-class essays to polish, add, and expound on for any of your research essays – or you can create a completely new essay. The

Be sure to:

* Use MLA formatting (for your essay but also on the Works Cited)
* Write at least **5 full pages**(**1200 words**)
* Include **6-10 quotes** from your chosen work (or works if you want to compare) = 1-3 quotes from your work in each body paragraph
* Write more than six paragraphs
* Find **4 scholarly sources** to deepen your own discussion – cite each source correctly on your Works Cited
* Quote each of your 4 scholarly sources at **least once** throughout your essay – and cite correctly (Smith).
* Your Works Cited should include at least 5 sources: 4 scholarly plus your story, poem, and/or play

Also remember to follow the structure:

Introduction Paragraph

* Grab Attention
* Give some background and context
* Present your thesis clearly (opinion and why)

Body Paragraphs

* Transition readers into the paragraph (First, While, In order to…)
* Introduce the point of the paragraph
* Introduce your quote
* Discuss/Analyze the quote
* Repeat if necessary (adding scholarly quotes and discussion)
* End the paragraph by returning to your thesis – how have you proven part of your overall point?

Conclusion Paragraph

* + Transition to the end (Ultimately, Finally, Without a doubt)
  + Recap your main points
  + Review your thesis (use fresh language)
  + End with a bang! (Be thought-provoking; make us glad we read your essay)