

2.7b Option 1: Outline with a Transformational Focus

Review the information below before completing the table that follows.

Critical Essays:

The critical response involves critically analyzing a short story and your chosen novel in relation to an EQ. You will go through the writing process of choosing your texts and topic, brainstorming specific evidence to support your thesis and planning; you will recruit a peer to review your outline and rough draft and then you will make revisions before submitting your polished essay.

Some critical essays require you to focus on the literary elements and techniques, and this is often the approach taken when using a poem as the textual evidence. However, when approaching the essential question/ question prompt and there is a dynamic character involved (protagonist, antagonist), a better approach may be to consider how the character has transformed throughout the text in relation to the question posed.

Introductory Paragraph: **Introduce**

- Introduce the topic. Use a quotation from the film or a brief anecdote that is related to the topic that captures the reader's attention.
- Introduce the texts and characters you will discuss. Include the author, text titles, and the characters' names.
- In a single thesis statement, answer how the characters' transformations is/are connected to the "big idea," so it is clear what position you intend to support in your essay, and include a "because" or "but" clause.
- Your thesis must explain the relationship between the characters' transformations and the "big idea" you pulled from the texts (aka Essential Question).

Body Paragraph 1: **Prior to Transformation**

- State the topic sentence. Be sure it relates to the thesis statement and clearly focuses on the character prior to transformation.
- Introduce the characters, and explain each character's role in the text.
- Describe the characters at the beginning of the story, before he or she transforms.
- Develop specific, supporting evidence from the text, always showing how the evidence contributes to your topic and proves your thesis.
- Conclude, connecting your topic to the thesis

Body Paragraph 2: **Cause of Transformation**

- State the topic sentence. Be sure it relates to the thesis statement and clearly focuses on the cause of the characters' transformations.
 - Explain the circumstances that cause the characters' transformations to begin.
 - Describe how the characters initially react.
 - Develop specific, supporting evidence from the texts that show the cause of transformation, always showing how the evidence proves the thesis.
- Conclude, connecting your topic to the thesis.

➤ **Body Paragraph 3: During Transformation**

- State the topic sentence. Be sure it relates to the thesis statement and clearly focuses on the character during the process of transformation.
- Describe how the character is changing as seen in key moments in the text. Support your ideas with specific evidence, always showing how the evidence proves the thesis.
- Consider the way in which the character has to make a choice between an old and new way of thinking or behaving.
- Conclude, connecting your topic to the thesis.

Body Paragraph 4: After Transformation

- State the topic sentence. Be sure it relates to the thesis statement and clearly focuses on the characters after transformation.
- Describe how the characters have changed. Explain the outcome of the transformation—who the character “is” at the end of the text.
- How does this transformation process affect those around him or her?
- Why does his or her transformation matter?
- Support your ideas with specific evidence from the text that the character has transformed in an important way.
- Conclude, connecting your topic to the thesis.

Concluding Paragraph: Conclude

- Restate your thesis statement in different words, confirming your thesis has been proven.
- Reconnect with your introductory paragraph:
- How have the characters’ transformations illuminated the topic?
- How does the topic relate to people in society?
- Include final words to leave the reader thinking: a quotation, an anecdote, or a strong statement or question.

Integrating Quotations from a Literary Text into a Literary Analysis Paper

As you choose quotations for a literary analysis, remember the purpose of quoting. The Writing Center at the University of Wisconsin—Madison reminds writers to develop a paper that is

an argument about what the author of the text is doing—how the text “works.” You use quotations to support this argument. This involves selecting, presenting, and discussing material from the text in order to “prove” your point—to make your case—in much the same way a lawyer brings evidence before a jury.

Quoting for any other purpose is counterproductive. Don’t quote to “tell the story” or otherwise convey basic information about the text...assume the reader knows the text. And don’t quote just for the sake of quoting or just to fill up space. Don’t make the reader jump up and shout “Irrelevant!”

Source: PDF handout located at <https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/quoliterature>

2.7b Short Story CRT Outline–Transformational Focus

Introductory Paragraph: Introduce	
<p>Introduce the topic. Use a quotation from the texts or a brief anecdote that is related to the topic that captures the reader's attention.</p>	
<p>Introduce the texts and characters you will discuss. Include the author, text titles, and the characters' names.</p>	
<p>In a single thesis statement, answer the assigned question so it is clear what you will prove in your essay, and include a "because" or "but" clause. Your thesis must explain the relationship between the key words in the essay topic. Use key words from the essay topic in the phrasing of your thesis statement. <i>(If you haven't yet received approval for your thesis, STOP here and wait!)</i></p>	

Body Paragraph 1: Prior to Transformation	
<p>State the topic sentence. Be sure it relates to the thesis statement and clearly focuses on the characters prior to transformation.</p>	
<p>Introduce the characters, and explain each character's role in the text.</p>	
<p>Describe the characters at the beginning of the text, before he or she transforms.</p>	
<p>Develop specific, supporting evidence from the text, always showing how the evidence contributes to your topic and proves your thesis.</p>	
<p>Conclude, connecting your topic to the thesis.</p>	

Body Paragraph 2: Cause of Transformation	
State the topic sentence. Be sure it relates to the thesis statement and clearly focuses on the cause of the characters' transformations.	
Explain the circumstances that cause the characters' transformations to begin. Describe how the characters initially react.	
Develop specific, supporting evidence from the text that show the cause of transformation, always showing how the evidence proves the thesis.	
Conclude, connecting your topic to the thesis.	

Body Paragraph 3: During Transformation	
State the topic sentence. Be sure it relates to the thesis statement and clearly focuses on the characters during the process of transformation.	
Describe how the characters are changing as seen in key moments in the text. Support your ideas with specific evidence, always showing how the evidence proves the thesis.	
Consider the way in which the characters have to make a choice between an old and new way of thinking or behaving.	
Conclude, connecting your topic to the thesis.	

Body Paragraph 4: After Transformation	
State the topic sentence. Be sure it relates to the thesis statement and clearly focuses on the characters <i>after</i> transformation.	
Describe how the character has changed. Explain the outcome of the transformation—who the character “is” at the end of the text. How does this transformation process affect those around him or her? Why does his or her transformation matter?	
Support your ideas with specific evidence from the text that the characters have transformed in an important way.	
Conclude, connecting your topic to the thesis.	

Concluding Paragraph: Conclude	
Restate your thesis statement in different words, confirming your thesis has been proven.	
Reconnect with your introductory paragraph: How have the characters’ transformations illuminated the topic? How does the topic relate to people in society?	
Include final words to leave the reader thinking: a quotation, an anecdote, or a strong statement or question.	