**Using Character Transformation in Essay Writing**

**Refer to the Using Character Transformation in Essay Writing Tutorial to help you complete each box in this handout. Contact your teacher if you would like assistance.**

**Step 1: Reread your essay question.**

**What is your opinion of the idea that the ability to face hardship is an essential human quality?**

**Step 2: Decode the question.**

* Cross off the stem of the question to focus on what it’s asking.
* Then circle the keywords.

**Example of Decoding Question:**

~~What is your opinion of the idea that~~ our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others?

**Your Original Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that the ability to face hardship is an essential human quality?

**Now You Try (Decode Question):**

**Step 3: Rephrase the original question into a simple answer, and write it in the space below.**

**Example Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others?

**Example of Rephrasing:** Our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others.

**Your Original Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that the ability to face hardship is an essential human quality?

**Now You Try (Rephrase Question):**

**Step 4: Choose a character who transforms (from a text you have studied in the course). Then explain how you could you use that character’s transformation to answer the essay question.**

**Example Question:**  “What is your opinion of the idea that our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others?”

**Here’s how transformation could be used to answer the question:**

Wes Holman from the short story “Long, Long After School” could be used to answer the question because **Mrs. Tretheway causes Wes to transform**. Her **actions** toward him **influenced** the way he thought about himself and helped him **transform** into a strong student who felt worthy of love.

**Your Original Question:** “What is your opinion of the idea that the ability to face hardship is an essential human quality?

**Now You Try (Choose a Character):** What character could you use to answer that question? Explain in the space below.

**Step 5: Write your thesis using a “because” or “but” clause. Then plug it into the thesis statement formula.**

Name the type of text (photo, novel, film, etc.), the title, and the author or text creator.

* Titles of longer texts should be *italicized* or underlined.
* Titles of shorter texts should be in “quotation marks.”

Formula: In [type of text] [text title], [poet/photographer/filmmaker/etc.] suggests that [thesis statement].

**Example Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that our beliefs are influenced by the actions of others?

**Example Thesis: In** **the short story** **“Long, Long After School,”author Ernest Buckler suggests that** other people’s actions can influence or transform our beliefs **because** they can inspire us to see the best in ourselves.

**Your Original Question:** What is your opinion of the idea that the ability to face hardship is an essential human quality?

**Now You Try (Write Thesis):** In the [insert type of text], [insert title], [insert author] suggests that [insert thesis statement].