

## 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 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.

- o Titles of longer texts should be *italicized* or underlined.
- o 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].