

Character Analysis Essay - Rough Draft

Hatchet

Rough Draft Due: 1/12

1. Identify three significant character traits in the main character, Brian. Make sure these traits are important to who Brian is and what he does in the novel.
2. Gather textual evidence (quotes and passages from the book) that show Brian exhibiting these traits.
3. After gathering your textual evidence, decide on your main points for your paper. These main points should be tied directly to the character traits and quotes you have selected. Your main points will be the focus of your body paragraphs.
4. Next, based on your main points, develop a thesis statement. *See below for more info.
5. Organize and plan out your essay *before* you begin drafting. I can provide a paper organizer, or you can organize your ideas in your own way. This will be part of the grade for your rough draft.
6. After you have completed steps 1-5, you may begin writing the rough draft of your paper. Refer to the “Elements of a Response to Literature Essay” handout for a suggested structure. The rough draft is due by Friday 1/12.

***Thesis Statement:** A thesis statement is a sentence or two that tells the reader what the rest of the essay is about. Good thesis statements do not simply announce a topic; they say something about the topic, and it provides the framework for your paper. Never start a thesis with, “In this paper, I will discuss...”

A thesis statement informs the reader of the scope, purpose, and direction of the paper. It summarizes the conclusion that the writer has reached about the topic.

For example: In a character analysis essay, the thesis statement could be: Through Miss Maudie Atkinson’s open-mindedness, optimism, and compassion, she helps Jem and Scout better understand Atticus and their community.