Character Essay

The thesis statement must reveal whether or not the character being analyzed is dynamic or static; however, the terms "dynamic" and "static" should never be used. Organization of the essay will be determined by whether or not the character is dynamic or static.

Dynamic Character Essay:

A dynamic character essay is episodic, meaning you must prove that the character changes into something else. This can be done by using either traits or values. A trait is an internal quality (adjective), and a value is an external pursuit (noun). If using traits, the traits must be related. Typically, a character who changes experiences a growth; hence, it is a positive change. A strong paper will go beyond merely saying that the character changes. A strong paper will discuss how the changes affect the character. The statements of organization will be formatted as follows:

S. of O. #1 - Initial characteristic

S. of O. #2 - Transforming experience

S. of O. #3 - Transformed characteristics

Static Character Essay:

In a static character essay you must pick one trait that defines your character. Again you need to discuss how that trait affects the character. Typically, a static character possesses one trait that is so prevalent it is either a weakness leading to a downfall or it is strength enabling the character to overcome adversity. A static character essay should be organized analytically by breaking it up into two or three areas. Each area is a statement of organization. Here are examples with the trait "courage":

1. Courage in the home and workplace. (4 paragraph essay)

2. Internal and external courage. (4 paragraph essay)

3. Physical, psychological, and spiritual/emotional courage. (5 paragraph essay)

Some sample static character thesis statements are:

To quest for truth is Oedipus' primary motivation.

To define courage is to define Atticus Finch.