

Essay One Assignment

Due: Friday, October 10
Length: Four to Five pages

Please choose one of the following questions and answer it, with a prominently placed thesis (in the first paragraph), in a four- to five-page essay. In this essay you will need to quote from your primary text on numerous (probably at least four) occasions. You are also required to quote from, and correctly cite following MLA guidelines, at least one scholarly source. The article that you use as your scholarly source must come from a peer-reviewed journal. You cannot use a book review or an abstract as a scholarly source. The whole paper must follow MLA guidelines. Please use Times New Roman font, 12 point, and double-space throughout your paper.

1. We have read several short stories thus far in the term written from a “first person” point of view. For your essay, please choose one of these stories and offer an examination, with textual evidence, of the narrator’s “reliability.” What does the narrator allow us to know or not know, to see or not see? What is the effect on the reader of the author’s choice to craft such a narrator?
2. So far this semester, we have read many stories to which we might apply interpretations that draw on issues that exist above and beyond the text itself. Some of these “issues,” for lack of a better word, are race, gender, ethnicity, culture, social status, property, and religion. In some stories, through plot and character, one or more of these issues collide with each other and, in fact, battle for preeminence in a story. Please choose a story that we’ve read and offer an explanation of how the story might seem to a reader initially to be about one thing but, upon further investigation, the reader might well find that the story is plausibly about something else *instead*, or in addition, as a result of the reader’s interpretive investigations.
3. Please develop (and support) an argument regarding the role of the “senses” in one of the short stories we’ve read this term (or of one sense in particular!). Try to be as inventive and insightful as you can and also try not to choose the obvious story here! (But you can if you must.)