

English 1100  
Mr. Laing  
Assignment 2/ February 4

## Paper # 2: Short Fiction Essay

“It takes a thousand voices to tell a single story.” —Native American saying

**Assignment:** You will write a 4 page paper that compares a literary feature of short fiction found in *two of the short fiction pieces discussed during the semester*. These features include (but are not limited to) character, setting, narrator, symbol, style, and tone. This paper should offer a comparison of the feature within the two stories, as well as an evaluation about which story uses that feature to greater effect. Again, it is not enough to simply recall how the feature works in the two stories, you must also explain why it is weaker or stronger when compared to the second story.

**Getting Started:** Again, you should begin by selecting the literary feature that interests you most. Consult the *Bedford Glossary of Literary Terms* to learn more about the major fiction elements mentioned above. After selecting an appealing feature, begin to think about the two pieces of short fiction that best reflect this component. Remember, you need to be able to make supportable connections between the two stories, therefore, it is advisable to pick stories that have relevant connections. As you begin to narrow your focus, define a thesis statement that will convince your audience why this literary element is significant and which story makes stronger use of it.

**Focus:** When planning a comparison essay, first determine the overarching goal which will unify your paper. What makes this literary feature important? How does this story employ it? Which story has a stronger use of this element? Why? You may find it beneficial to discuss these features in terms of the literary theories that we have covered in class. For example, when talking about a story’s narrator it may be advisable to consider the any racial or gender biases that may be projected within the story. While you are not expected to research these theories extensively, discussing them now will give you practice for your larger research paper.

**Suggestions:** Remember to clarify your intentions so that your audience understands both your connections and the conclusions you have drawn. It is a good idea to try to find common ground between your two stories in order to help strengthen your comparisons. As you begin writing, make sure that you are always referring to the works in support of your argument. Avoid making observations about the two texts without linking those ideas back to your main idea.

**Mechanics:** This essay must be double spaced, written in 12 point Times New Roman font with one inch margins. All citation and formatting must follow proper MLA guidelines.

### Schedule:

Monday, February 4	Introduce Paper 2 Assignment
Wednesday, Feb. 13 (Noon)	Email Paper 2 Topic
Monday, Feb. 18	Paper 2 Workshop
Wednesday, Feb. 20	Paper 2 Evaluation Draft due