**English 102: Essay #1**

**Spring 2023**

**Professor Cruz**

**Assignment:** Choose one of these stories and discuss how does the woman’s exterior and/or interior world force her to succumb in some way, and how does this affect the story’s outcome?

* Chopin “The Story of an Hour”
* Faulkner “A Rose for Emily”
* Gilman “The Yellow Wallpaper”

To begin, you will need to break down the question and identify key points:

* What are the woman’s exterior and/or interior worlds like?
* How does she succumb? What does she succumb to?
* What is the outcome of the story? How do her thoughts and/or actions play a role in this outcome?

**Do not simply take the question and turn it into the answer**. Here is an example of what not to do:

In Faulkner’s *A Rose for Emily*, Emily’s exterior world forces her to succumb,

profoundly affecting the outcome of the story.

This is a weak thesis statement because it says nothing specific in response to the question. If the reader still has to ask questions, the thesis is weak. A specific thesis, on the other hand, will generate one of two responses: 1) The reader will agree with you and will read on because people like to be right or 2) the reader will disagree and will read on to find fault with your statement. Either way, you will need strong textual evidence and explanations to convince the reader that your ideas are valid.

If you think you have an answer to one of these questions, jot it down. Then go back to the story and decide what points and evidence you might use to support it. If you can’t find any, there is the possibility that your thesis is not viable.

Another common mistake students make is that if they do not have a solid thesis, they revert to telling the reader what happens in the story which will lead to an F.

Once you think you have a tentative thesis (nothing is final until you hand it in for a grade), you are ready to develop your outline.

**Specifications:**

Your rough and final drafts must be a minimum of 2 pages.

To support your claims, you must **provide relevant textual evidence** and adhere to **proper MLA format**.

Please do not use any textual evidence that is not directly pointed toward your thesis.

**Due Dates:**

**Thesis Statement Workshop** Monday, Feb. 27 by 1 p.m. – Everyone will bring at least one (maybe even two) potential thesis statements to share with the class on the board. We will discuss and help each other refine. If you will be absent, I expect a thesis via email by 1 p.m.

**First Draft - Peer Review** (complete - 2-pg. min., **not an outline, free write, or notes**) - Wednesday, March 1 by 1 p.m. \*If you are absent, the complete 2-pg draft is due in my email box by 1 p.m. If your paper does not meet the length minimum and/or is not in by 1 p.m., and/or you do not have two copies, you will lose one grade on your final draft, and you will not get the benefit of having me take a look at it. You must bring two hard copies to class.

**Final draft** – Monday, March 6th, by 1 p.m. (I prefer MS Word or a Google Doc) \*If it is not in my email box by then, it will count as a “0.”

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**Use this checklist to ensure that your paper meets expectations. Failure to follow these specs carefully will cost you points:**

\_\_\_Double spaced, 12 pt. New Times Roman (or Times New Roman) Microsoft font

\_\_\_Indent by hitting “Tab” key once only

\_\_\_**Do not** space in between paragraphs

\_\_\_Make sure that the last page of your minimum two pages comes down at least ¾ on the

second page. If it is short, you will have “failed” to meet the specified minimum. You might

want to fold it to check.

\_\_\_One space after a comma and two spaces after a period

\_\_\_Use official MLA heading in the upper-left hand corner.

\_\_\_Your header in the far upper-right hand corner should include your last name and

page number in the same size font as your text

\_\_\_You are encouraged to create a good title.