

Character Analysis Essay

1 — Task

Your assignment is to write a character analysis of a major character in the novel *Ender's Game*. Once you have chosen a character to analyse, choose three adjectives that describe that character. Use the character log handout to summarise the character traits and to collect quotes. These adjectives, or character traits, as well as your quotes, will be the basis of your five-paragraph essay.

2 — Use the PIE Essay Structure:

Remember that when you make a point, you need to support it with a quotation and then explain exactly how the quotation highlights what you want to show. This is also known as the PIE essay structure (Point — Illustration — Explanation) and can be used for any type of essay:

Introduction (1 paragraph)	A	Attention Grabber.
	B	Link Attention Grabber to Essay Topic, character and novel.
	C	Thesis Statement about your character. Remember to use three adjectives .
Body 1 (1 paragraph)	P	Topic Sentence about first adjective / character trait .
	I	Quote used to illustrate point / argument
	E	Explanation & Analysis (reinforces topic sentence, thesis statement)
Body 2 (1 paragraph)	P	Topic Sentence about second adjective / character trait .
	I	Quote used to illustrate point / argument
	E	Explanation & Analysis (reinforces topic sentence, thesis statement)
Body 3 (1 paragraph)	P	Topic Sentence about third adjective / character trait .
	I	Quote used to illustrate point / argument
	E	Explanation & Analysis (reinforces topic sentence, thesis statement)
Conclusion (1 paragraph)	A	Summary of central arguments and observations about the character.
	B	Final argument(s) & observations about the character.
	C	Thought-provoking final statement.

3 — Your 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 they provide the framework for your paper. Never start a thesis with, "In this paper I will discuss...".

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

For example: *Ender Wiggin is superior to other characters in the novel not only in intelligence but also in moral perception and compassion.*

4 — Detailed Outline:

Introduction

The introduction should start with an attention grabber about the character and/or novel. IT should then lead to your thesis statement. Be sure you have identified the author and title of the book and the character you will be analysing. Some questions you could address in your introduction include:

1. Why did you pick this character?
2. What do you like and/or dislike about this character?
3. Do you identify with this character on any level?
4. Do you know someone similar to him or her? Explain.

The Body Paragraphs

The topic sentence for each body paragraph includes one character trait you have used in your thesis statement to describe your character. For example,

Ender Wiggin is superior to other characters in the novel not only in intelligence but also in moral perception and compassion. He may defend himself fiercely in personal combat, but he has a sense of fairness. He can understand other points of view besides his own; in fact, he wins because he can probe the enemy's mind empathetically.

As above, follow the topic sentence with evidence from the novel: examples from the story that support your topic sentence, and at least one direct quotation from the novel in each body paragraph. Next, explain how your examples support your topic sentence, and conclude each body paragraph with a summarizing “clincher” sentence to wrap-up your ideas.

Conclusion

Restate your thesis statement and add some final thoughts about your character and/or the novel...leave the reader with a thought-provoking final statement.