

protagonist  
antagonist

major  
minor

dynamic  
static  
round

stereotype (archetype)  
foil  
flat

### Character Analysis Essay Help Sheet

What are the character traits you are analyzing?

- I Step One: Brainstorm some ideas about your character (write a quick rough draft)
- II Step Two: figure out what you want to say about that character  
*Is he/she noble? deplorable? a good leader? a bad one? Why did/didn't he/she make it to battle school? Why should/shouldn't have he/she made it to Battle School? How has he/she grown/changed? Why could/couldn't he/she have been the One?*
- III Step Three: write a thesis = organize your paper

Never in thesis or paper: "I will discuss"

Option A - organize paper around three central traits or major characteristics  
Sample Thesis: *Ender is a good leader because he is X, Y, and Z.*

Option B - organize your paper around character growth

(It is important to stress the actual changes as they are shown, but at the same time avoid simply summarizing or retelling the story.)  
Sample Thesis: *Ben changes from a X, to a Y, and finally, to a Z.*

use Plague List!

Option C - do something more sophisticated, but be sure to check it out with me!

Step Four: collect your proof  
Collect 3-5 direct quotes with page numbers of words, thoughts, or actions that demonstrate the character trait you claim the character has. After each quote, explain how the quote demonstrates it. Find 3-5 for each character trait.

Step Five: begin writing your paper being sure to use proper MLA citation methods (inline)

### Reminders about writing BODY PARAGRAPHS:

- III #1 Topic Sentence - should cover everything that will be discussed in that paragraph AND directly support the thesis
- #2 Examples/Details - use specific times in the story when the character trait is shown - choose the best examples from your sheet  
Three categories of details:  
WORDS - what the character says, or what is said about the character  
THOUGHTS - what the character thinks  
ACTIONS - what the character actually does

- ~~x~~ contractions
- ✓ spelling
- ✓ grammar
- ✓ title punct

Quote examples of the words, thoughts or actions in the paragraphs you write as proof of the trait.

Two categories of quotes:

DIRECT QUOTE - copy word for word what is in the book

- put what you copy in quotes ("xxxx")
- put the page number you copied the quote from  
"Julie forgot the combination after Christmas break" (43).

INDIRECT QUOTE

- use your words to describe a specific event
- use page numbers even though it is not word for word  
After Christmas break, Julie couldn't remember her locker combo (43).

embed quotes

- 1 quote per ea. body P
- mla format
- inline citations
- Title per mla
- 5 Ps
- No personal pronoun

#3 Explanations - be sure to explain what the quote/detail demonstrates or shows. Make the point you want to make. Lead the reader to the conclusion you want him/her to reach. don't expect your reader to just "get it."

Use elements for support

Due: Saturday, Dec 9 - 6pm