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**Professor’s Name: Professor Marie Dybala**

**English 1302: CRN 16332**

**Date: 02/03/24**

**Tree Diagram or Informal Outline of Essay One: Type on this document.** Add a formal **MLA style heading and header** (Replace the name in the header with your last name). Type on this form! Use as much space as you need to list your points and organize your preliminary outline of essay one. After completing the prewriting and reviewing the Essay One Assignment and the Formal Outline structure, you will be ready to plan this preliminary outline for the short story that you have selected to analyze. **Select one short story for your analysis, either “Desiree’s Baby” or “Sweetness.”** Select the story that you had more interest in when completing the prewriting assignment.

Prepare to share your preliminary thesis with a small group in a discussion forum on Monday.

**Due Date: Monday, February 5--** Submit this document saved as a .docx Microsoft Word file to the **Informal Outline** **Tree Diagram Assignment.** Then, begin developing the essay on the formal outline.

**Informal Outline of Main Body of Essay**: Planning Essay One (Confirmation Section of formal outline—the four main body paragraphs of your essay) State the subtopics in the order you present them in your thesis; then, list four or more details to develop each subtopic paragraph and include at least one or two quotes from the story to support each section of the body of your essay. Limit the quote to no more than one sentence unless the sentences are very short.

This preliminary outline is referred to as a **tree diagram** to emphasize how your ideas are growing and branching out from the foundation of your essay or the trunk and roots of your tree. These are your preliminary ideas and will be developed as you write your **formal outline**.

**Refer to the sample color-coded thesis sentences in Module Two.**

**Thesis Sentence:** Follow this structure to write your thesis:

1. State your narrowed topic,

2. State your **claim or argumentative interpretation** of the author’s purpose in the short story and

3. State the **four subtopics** your paper will consider in defense of this claim.

**Thesis Sentence: (Add your original tentative thesis here)**

Diseree’s husband Armand Aubigny had no idea that his parentage was of mixed blood; It was a complete shock to him; It was revealed by his mother’s letter; It is intended that way by Kate Chopin’s writing style.

**(You will delete these lines when typing your thesis. They are here to remind you to write the thesis first!)**

**Remember: The thesis statement is the organizing principle of your essay; it is the argument that you are making about the author’s creative purpose and the central claim that will unify your essay. The claim must be a debatable interpretation, you should not simply summarize the plot.**

**Subtopic One: Mr. Armand Aubigny didn’t know of his parentage**

1. Revelation to the reader is at the end stating fact, not a non sequitur.
2. He blames the baby’s appearance on his wife’s presumed lies.
3. This exacting man was initially happy at his child when it appeared white.
4. He couldn’t keep a secret like that in the long run.

**Quote(s): “…Armand will never know that his mother, who adores him, belongs to the race that is cursed with the brand of slavery.” (Chopin 86)**

**Subtopic Two: Mrs. Desiree would not have married him otherwise**

1. He would eventually have to tell her to not have his marriage fail.
2. She clearly sees non-whites as lesser, like Armand.
3. She cannot stand the thought of herself being non-white.
4. He sends her away instead of trying to reason the situation.

**Quote(s): “You must know it is not true. I shall die. I must die.” (Chopin 85)**

**Subtopic Three: Armand would have avoided any chance of revelation**

1. He married a woman of unknown heritage.
2. He had a child that could easily reveal a secret upon birth.
3. When rumors spread, he neither flees nor shifts blame openly.
4. After banishing his wife, he burns any chance of a new child metaphorically and literally that could evade rumors.

**Quote (s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Subtopic Four: The letter is placed at the end of the story**

1. It is placed as a revelation to the reader.
2. Nothing indicates that the letter is intended as a non-sequitur.
3. Kate Chopin writes to surprise with a few lines of truth.
4. The story was written to be tragically ironic.

**Quote (s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**