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**Engl 1302: CRN - 16332**

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**Formal Outline for Essay Two: Classical Scheme of Argumentation**

**Due Date: March 8**

Download this form and type your sentences on it to develop the first draft of your essay in outline form. The outline requires that you **place only one sentence after each letter**. Follow this outline **sentence-by-sentence**. Lead up to your argumentative thesis in the **introduction** and begin each body paragraph (Section III-VI) with **a topic sentence** that refers to a subtopic stated or suggested in the thesis. Restate the subtopic and assert your claim about it. Paragraphs **II** and **VII** should also begin with a topic sentence that states a narrowed focus and your purpose: the purpose of **paragraph II** is to demonstrate your expertise and introduce the author’s background in relationship to the short story. **Paragraph VII** will acknowledge the merits of a strong alternative interpretation and refute it.

Essay Two must include all parts of this outline. Notice **the pattern of development** for subtopic one and two versus subtopic three and four and choose the pattern that will best develop your paragraph. All four paragraphs include a minimum of seven sentences. Subtopic one and two include **two quotations** from the story whereas subtopic three and four include **only one quote** from the story. Copy the outline for the pattern that you prefer to follow in each of your subtopic paragraphs. If you follow the pattern with one quote, you must analyze more parts of the quote in three sentences rather than one sentence of analysis for each quote. You may choose either pattern of development in paragraphs III-VI if you follow one of the two options. **Copy and paste the outline for the structure that you are using in that paragraph.**

Write your own interpretive analysis of the story you have selected. The sample sentences are provided as models of how to follow the formal outline guidelines. Although you may state a similar idea, you must use your own words. Remove my sample sentences and replace them with your original sentence.

**I. Introduction** (3-4 sentences)

A. Introduce topic: State the **author** and **title** of the short story (in quotation marks)

and **topic** to capture the readers’ attention.

The story of, “The Word Love” by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is a third-person narrative about a young Indian woman dealing with the tear between the love of the life she wants to live and the love of her intolerant abusing mother towards such a lifestyle.

B. Add more information about the **topic to suggest the significance of the work**.

After having been subjected to such a atrocious relationship for so long, she has developed several methods indicative of mental instability to cope with the trauma.

C. State **thesis**: Narrow topic more specifically and state your **claim** and suggest four

subtopics (Organizing principle of your essay—most important sentence)

The narrator in “The Word Love” is mentally unwell, or cognitively unstable,

after having suffered from being the victim of an abusive, captive, parental relationship with their mother as demonstrated by; The narrator stressing out over otherwise normal behavior, the narrator’s mother wanting them close and is unwilling to let them have their own life, the mother not tolerating the narrator’s independence, and the narrator being prepared to end their life in response to rejection from their mother.

**II. Expository paragraph**: This paragraph demonstrates your **expertise** on

the author or her time period or a concept related to your topic and identifies terms or explains pertinent background information. (**Ethical** **appeal**) (5-7 Sentences) Refer to the links of websites on the authors posted in Canvas or the introduction to the story by the editor of the anthology, Nicolas Kanellos, in the case of Viramontes’ story (304). You may want to relate the story to your knowledge of traditional cultural expectations or gender stereotypes. Use MLA style to cite any source that you include.

1. State the topic: What kind of background information will you describe?

I will describe Chantri Divakaruni’s history of writing and her close association with activist organizations.

B. Select relevant details from the website to enhance the defense argument of your argument.

Chitra has been an activist against domestic violence, especially since she helped found Maitri which assists said survivors, which shows her understanding problematic relationships.

1. Add another detail about the author or continue to analyze the information in B.

Her works of writing about such subject have received critical acclaim, including “The Word Love” which was of such high regard in her understanding of the topic that it was made into an award-winning movie.

D. Add more information and include the parenthetic citation for the website in which

you find the information.

“She serves on the Advisory Board of Maitri in the San Francisco Bay Area and of Daya in Houston, both organizations that help survivors of domestic abuse and trafficking” (CHITRA par12).

E. Explain how the author’s background or the topic you have described supports your thesis.

Chitra’s intimate knowledge with Indian culture allows her to describe the details of someone not fitting into that culture and the conflicts that can arise.

III.-VI. **Confirmation Section**: Four subtopic paragraphs developing the evidence to support your thesis.

**III. Subtopic One** (See **alternate arrangement** with only one quote in **paragraph V and VI**.) If you choose to use one quote, copy and paste the outline guidelines for section V. or VI. E. and F.You may include either one or two quotes in each paragraph of the confirmation, but you must develop the paragraph with **7** **sentences.**

1. **Topic Sentence**: State the **topic** of this paragraph and your **claim** about it.

The narrator stresses over normal behavior.

1. Elaborate on the topic: explain the significance of your subtopic.

The narrator tries to immediately convince their lover of their mother’s good intentions rather than accept the criticism.

1. **Introduce a quote and state it**. Use quotation marks and punctuate in MLA style!

“You’re acting like I was some kind of criminal” (LOVE pg58 par1)

1. Explain your interpretation of the quote. Analyze its significance to your thesis!

The treatment of the lover indicates that they feel guilty themselves for what is normal behavior.

1. **Introduce the next quote and state it.**

“…they seemed to be telling you something. If only you could decipher it.” (LOVE pg58 para2).

F. Discuss the quote. Do not simply paraphrase or restate it: analyze it. Do not use the

words of the quote to discuss it.

The book titles they read are trying to tell them about their lack of control, stress boiling over, and the shock their mother will feel.

1. Transition to the next paragraph: close this paragraph and introduce the next.

Her stress is obvious to me, and on a subconscious level it is to herself as well and the reasoning behind this stress is her mother’s overbearing nature.

IV. **Confirmation Section: Subtopic Two**

A. **Topic Sentence**: State the **topic** of this paragraph and your **claim** about it.

The narrator’s mother wants them close and is unwilling to let them have their own life.

1. Elaborate on the topic (explain it more fully).

The mother speaks of arranging the marriage for cousin Leela, showing how controlling life back home really is.

C. Introduce a quote and state it. Use quotation marks and punctuate in MLA style!

“How long before the Ph.D and you come home for good?” (LOVE pg60 par2)

1. Explain your interpretation of the quote.

The mother has already made the presumption that the narrator wishes to return home after college, demonstrating they way the mother believe that decisions should be made.

E. Introduce next quote and state it.

“You listen, holding on to the rounded *o*’s, the long liquid *e*’s, the *s*’s that brush against your face soft as night kisses” (LOVE pg60 par2).

F. Discuss the quote by explaining how it supports your topic sentence.

The narrator’s inner voice is attempting to convince them of their mother’s good intentions with pathos, despite the information that is the demanding nature they are trying to get away from with their new life.

1. Transition to the next paragraph.

The narrator’s anguish is shown by the way they act around their mother, but the history of misdeeds will show her true colors even with the narrator’s inner monologue attempting to dissuade.

V. **Confirmation Section: Subtopic Three**

A. **Topic Sentence**: Introduce the topic of this paragraph and your claim about it.

The mother will not tolerate the narrator’s independence.

B. Elaborate on the topic: explain the significance of your subtopic.

Her will is shown to be absolute, as the narrator is harshly punished as a child for the simplest infractions, which demonstrates the abusive relationship and its consequences.

C. **Introduce a quote and its context in the story and state it**.

“Better no daughter than a disobedient one, a shame to the family” (LOVE pg62 par1)

1. Explain your interpretation of the quote.

The mother was ready to banish their daughter for seeing a movie, as the mother deemed such things as frivolous and dictates other’s lives by her views, even to allow her to suffer injury from exposure to the cold.

1. Continue to discuss the quote by analyzing a **particular word choice** in the passage

I find it ironic that she uses the word ‘Family’ when it is only her will that is being defied here.

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F. Discuss the **symbolic aspect** or another important word choice in the passage.

This is the nature of the abuser in a relationship, in that they are the one that is believed to really have suffered despite whatever actions they take.

1. Transition to the next paragraph.

The past actions of the mother have shown their brutality, and it is now that the narrator will show what damage results from such trauma.

VI. **Confirmation Section: Subtopic Four**

1. **Topic Sentence**: Introduce the topic of this paragraph and your claim about it.

The narrator is prepared to end their life in response to rejection from their mother.

1. Elaborate on the topic: explain the significance of your subtopic.

This is erratic and unstable behavior on the narrator’s part at the admitted fault of the narrator’s mother and the relationship they held.

1. Introduce a quote and its context in the story and state it.

“…which ones were the sleeping pills. No matter. You can take them all, if that’s what you decide to do.” (LOVE pg70 par1).

1. Explain its significance to your interpretation.

The narrator’s inner monologue shows just how far they have fallen mentally in the wake of the mother’s complete rejection of their daughter.

E. Continue to discuss the quote by analyzing a **particular word choice or**

**punctuation mark or the sentence structure** in the passage.

I note the way her first thought is to use the sleeping pills, as if what has happened to her is a nightmare that she is attempting to escape from into a better dream.

1. Discuss the ramifications of the passage.

This shows the mental scarring that the mother has done to the narrator and the potential outcome if they never overcome it.

1. Transition to the next paragraph.

This consideration, and furthermore any consideration of suicide, is indicative of someone that is mentally unwell and the perpetrator is obvious to me, though there are holes in this analysis.

VII. **Concession and Refutation** (Explain a reasonable alternative interpretation of this story and its merits in this paragraph; then, explain the major flaw in this argument and why your interpretation is superior.)

1. Topic sentence: Acknowledge a strong opposing view to your thesis

Some might criticize that it was the lack of support from the narrator’s significant other that led them down this road.

1. Explain the appeal of this position and introduce a quote to support it.

When Rex claims, “It was never me, was it? Never love. It was always you and her, her and you.” potentially showing his misunderstanding of the relationship that she holds with her mother, or his outright refusal to acknowledge her mother’s importance.

1. Analyze a key word in the quote.

He says that is wasn’t ‘me’, presumably that he wasn’t the focus of her love, which itself could be Rex showing a selfish undercurrent that would coincide with the narrator’s frequent mentions of his obtuse behavior towards her mother.

1. Juxtapose or contrast this position to your interpretation of the story.

While he is dismissive of the importance of the narrator’s mother, his demeanor and consistent support of the narrator isn’t that of a self-absorbed person trying to get what they want, where they would naturally leave at any sign of adversity.

E. Reemphasize why your interpretation is more appealing than your opponent’s.

Rex even speaks at length of his intentions to help her with what is afflicting her, and that the only thing stopping him is his lack of knowledge at how to help her (LOVE pg69 par2).

F. Close with an emphasis in defense of your thesis.

This cannot be from recent relational stress with a lover, but from deep-seeded trauma from someone the narrator was close to, someone that betrayed that trust and led them down a path of mental anguish.

VIII. **Conclusion**

1. **Restate (do not simply repeat)** your thesis with a **bolder claim**.

In conclusion, the narrator is clearly scarred by the trauma they suffered at the hands of the only person in their early life, which has only resulted in deeper problems later in their adult life, something that happens all too often in the world as many of us already know.

B.-C. Clarify any questions your analysis may have posed. Add a final assertion to provoke the reader to reconsider their interpretation or to apply your points to their own lives (Avoid condescending or commanding tone).

This interpretation does rely on knowledge of abuse victims, something that does have patterns to support it factually, but can differ wildly from case to case. If you’ve heard of abuse stories, or know of someone who has suffered such tragedies, it can be asserted that you might see the similar actions and reactions here.

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LOVE. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. 1st Ed. Anchor Books 1995, Random House Inc. New York.