

## Assessment Task 1: Literary Essay Outline Sample

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Class: English 2-30

Selected Text: “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin

Selected Question: What is the theme of “The Story of an Hour”? How does Kate Chopin explore this theme in the story?

Catchy Title	Joy that Kills	
Introduction	Hook	Unique view of marriage
	Author	Kate Chopin
	Title	"The Story of an Hour"
	Main Character	Mrs. Louise Mallard
	A Short Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Shocking news of her husband's death</li><li>Released from the repression</li><li>Exhilaration of freedom short lived</li><li>Husband, Brently, still lives</li><li>Devastating revelation kills Mrs. Mallard</li></ul>
	Thesis	Therefore, in this story Chopin explores the oppressive nature of marriage using various literary devices.
First Body Paragraph	Topic Sentence	An important literary device that Chopin uses to explore the theme is the omniscient third person narrator.
	Explanation of ts Lead-in Claim	✓ Narrator - objectivity gains sympathy for Louise <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>society has expectations of reactions to loss of husband</li></ul>
	Textual Evidence (Quote/Paraphrase) (In-text citation)	✓ Narrator – insights into her thoughts <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>husband – “powerful will bending her” (Chopin, para. 15)</li></ul>
	Commentary Analysis Warrant	✓ Omniscient narrator - set the stage to reveal the truth <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>“monstrous joy” (para. 13)</li></ul>
	Concluding Sentence	Establish the idea that marriage is repressive and can stifle the individual

<b>Second Body Paragraph</b>	Topic Sentence	Another device that is employed by Chopin is language in the form of evocative vocabulary
	Explanation of ts Lead-in Claim	✓ Words – show contrasts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasises negative impact of marriage</li> </ul>
	Textual Evidence (Quote/Paraphrase) (In-text citation)	✓ Louise described as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“...young with a fair calm face...” (para. 8)</li> <li>however, contrasting description - lines of her face <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “...bespoke repression” (para. 8)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Commentary Analysis Warrant	✓ Word “repression” - person who is dominated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>marriage not a positive experience</li> <li>possibly inhibit personal growth instead</li> </ul>
	Concluding Sentence	Assists in the visualisation of the sad effect of the marriage
<b>Third Body Paragraph</b>	Topic Sentence	Lastly, a third device that emphasises the theme is the use of irony
	Explanation of ts Lead-in Claim	✓ The structure of story built on ironic juxtapositions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>examine contrasting events</li> </ul>
	Textual Evidence (Quote/Paraphrase) (In-text citation)	✓ Introduce element that destroy Mrs. Mallard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>her heart</li> <li>“Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband’s death” (para. 1)</li> <li>indicates delicate health</li> </ul>
	Commentary Analysis Warrant	✓ Use of the passive voice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>focuses on the need to protect Mrs. Mallard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assuming from her grief of husband’s death</li> </ul> </li> <li>reader knows she is “free, free, free” (para. 11)</li> <li>heart reacts to the sudden shock of seeing husband alive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>doctors claimed = “...died of heart disease – of joy that kills” (para. 23)</li> </ul> </li> <li>brevity at the end seems ironic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no indication what she thinks</li> <li>reader left to make guesses</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Concluding Sentence	Emphasises theme

<b>Conclusion</b>	Reiterate Thesis	Convincingly explores how marriage may be more oppressive than wonderful
	Extended Argument	✓ Portrayal of marriage resonate with today's society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• empathise with Mrs. Mallard's repression</li> <li>• come as no surprise – a crushing blow that causes her death.</li> </ul>
	Importance of the Text	✓ The theme relevant even today