

Your final paper is a synthesis plus research assignment which requires you to incorporate outside sources. It introduces guided research to build on the synthesis skills worked on in the previous assignments. You will learn about the process of researching, finding sources and using evidence to include in this essay. Research is a primary task for all college students and this assignment will introduce you to the information literacy and library skills needed to engage in academic research. Select a short story from any genre of choice and critique the story using not only your critical ideas but look up the opinions of other authors regarding the story you have selected. The critique process:

- Let the author know if this is not your favorite type of story.
- Write down your impressions as a reader.
- Try to give feedback on what could be changed.
- Give examples of improvements, if possible.
- Praise where praise is due.
- Never criticize the author personally.
- Critique as you would want to be critiqued.

The checklist (things to look for):

- Opening
- Conflict
- Plot
- Setting
- Characterization
- Dialogue
- Point of View
- Show versus tell
- Format of the text
- Grammar and spelling
- Style

Some tips:

- Tell if it's not your favorite kind of story.
- Don't be afraid to critique something if you're not familiar with the genre.
- Read how other critiques are done.
- Consider the target readers.
- Give your relevant experiences (optional).