

“Cask of Amontillado”: Character Analysis Paper

Write a five paragraph character analysis paper. Choose which character you want to analyze: Montresor or Fortunato. Once you have chosen a character, decide what three characteristics you want to focus on. Then write a paper. Each paragraph should focus on each of the three characteristics. Each body paragraph should have a topic sentence with a topic and a limiting idea. The rest of the paragraph should support the topic sentences using quotes from the story and analysis of the quotes. Avoid summary of the story at all costs in the body paragraphs.

Grading: paper will be graded based on my rubric, which makes content out of 6 points and grammar and usage out of 4 points. Paper must be typed and have proper formatting, which includes double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, proper heading, 1 inch margins, and no extra line spacing. Be sure to avoid all use of the first person and second person pronouns (I, me, my, you, your, etc.) The only exception to this rule is that you may use first and second person in the attention-getter. You should have a title that tells the reader what your paper is going to be about. Your paper is not about “Cask of Amontillado.” It is about a character. When writing about literature you should try to keep the paper in present tense.

Paragraph 1 (Introduction):

When writing an introduction, follow **ANT**.

Attention getter – get the reader’s attention.

- rhetorical question
- relevant quote from an outside source
- relevant quote from the story
- fact or statistic
- description of initial response to the work
- shocking or amusing generalization.

Whichever method you decide to use, make sure the attention-getter is relevant to the topic of your paper. The attention-getter should relate to the topic of your paper.

Necessary information:

- author’s full name – Edgar Allan Poe
- Title of story – “Cask of Amontillado”
- Brief plot summary – in two to five sentences briefly remind your readers what happened in the story. Highlight the major action of the story, especially those parts that are relevant to your analysis. Make sure to include the two character’s names. If your focus is Montresor, then the summary should concentrate on Montresor. He should be the subject of most of your sentences.

Thesis:

Your thesis should consist of a topic and limiting ideas. It should never be a question. It should be the last sentence of the introduction paragraph. The thesis should make it clear what characteristics you are concentrating on and what these characteristics add to the story.

Example:

Fortunato makes himself an easy target because of _____, _____, and _____.

Or

Montresor accomplishes _____ because of he is _____, _____, and _____.

Paragraph 2 – body

Body paragraphs should follow **TIQA**:

- **Topic sentence:** a topic sentence has a topic and a limiting idea, or a focus. Your topic is the character you have chosen. And your limiting idea is a character trait.
- **Introduce quote:** Before you supply the quote that supports your topic sentence, you need to introduce it. What this means is that you give some context to the quote. If someone is speaking the quote, you should tell your reader who is talking.
 - **Example:** When Montresor walks Fortunato through his Palazzo, he tells the reader, “. . . ” (211).
- **Quote:** Provide a quote that supports the topic sentence.
- **Analysis:** After the quote, spend about 2 to 3 sentences discussing how this quote proves that the character has this trait.
- **Transition:** Use a sentence or half a sentence to transition into a second quote for support.
 - **Example:** Another time the reader sees Montresor’s intelligence is when he . . .
- **Introduce quote.**
- **Quote**
- **Analysis**

Paragraphs 3 & 4:

Body paragraphs should follow **TIQA** (See above and class notes).

Conclusion:

- **Reword** your thesis. (You may want to start the rewording of your thesis with a signal word: e.g., *thus, therefore, in short, as one can see, it is obvious then, and then.*)
- Tie all your points together. Then in 1 – 3 sentences, tell your reader the **significance** or **importance** of the ideas you have been analyzing. You might want to tell your reader what they should learn from the ideas you analyzed in the body paragraphs. (Warning: do not use *you*.)
- **Clincher:** try to end your paper with a short sentence that reinforces your argument. This last sentence should do one of two things. It should either include some words from your attention-getter or it should include most words from your title. This gives a sense of closure to your paper.