**Short Story Exploration Paper**

**Purpose**

Your task is to illuminate a particular literary work by providing scientific, cultural, historical, sociological, or psychological context. Ideally, this paper will introduce you to the kind of research you will be using in your discipline. You will also continue working towards other course outcomes:

* Formulate significant research questions and craft a strong research proposal
* Use research-based writing to achieve a variety of purposes
* Locate and evaluate a variety of sources, including field-based, print, and electronic sources
* Develop strategies for organizing and managing source materials
* Integrate outside sources into your writing and citing them accurately and responsibly to avoid plagiarism

**Situation**

You should pretend that you are writing this paper for inclusion in Writers Across Disciplines, a web log dedicated to showing the interplay between fiction and fact in literary works.

The creator (and editor) of the blog is interested in how researching science and history can make stories more meaningful. He values diligent research in respected sources and logical organization. He is also lazy and doesn’t want to spend his days correcting someone’s grammar and punctuation mistakes. He values correct citations and a correctly formatted bibliography—both in the format appropriate for the type of research you’ve engaged in—so he can use your paper as a springboard into further research. He is keen on writers having a specific point.

You should assume that your reader has read the story.

**Procedure**

Choose any story in the literary anthology.

Identify one specific aspect or element of the story that can be illuminated by historical, scientific, cultural, sociological, or psychological research.

Conduct research and assemble your findings.

Write a paper explaining how your research contributes to an understanding of the writer’s overall purpose, theme, or a particular character’s motives.

**Research requirements**

* Primary source: your selected literary work.
* Secondary sources: a minimum of three legitimate sources. Avoid general web searches. You’ll need to find articles from the appropriate databases for your discipline.

**Other Paper Specs and Requirements**

* A minimum word count of 1000 (roughly four pages of text)
* Correct use of MLA, APA, Chicago, or other style
* A draft for peer-review