

## Literary Essay Outline Skeleton

### Catchy Title that Serves as Your Hook

#### Introduction (Use HATMAT)

- Hook
- Author
- Title
- Main characters
- Analyze and summarize
- Thesis (include a transitional phrase)

#### All Body Paragraphs

- Topic sentence
- Explanation of the topic sentence
- Introduce the quote
- Quote (pg#)
- Analyze the quote
- Finish off your claims
- Closing sentence (wrap up the paragraph to effectively transition to the next paragraph)

#### Conclusion

- Restate your thesis in different words.
- Summarize all your claims again.
- “Drop the mic”

#### SAMPLE OF THE BODY PARAGRAPHS:

1. Insert a Topic Sentence
2. Explain Your Topic Sentence
3. Introduce Your Quote
4. Insert Your Quote
5. Analyze the quote
6. Finish off your claims
7. Closing sentence: transition into your next point

Claim: In Amy Tan’s short story “Two Kinds,” the author leads us on a journey of a mother’s expectations for her daughter to become a prodigy are too high and willingly not obtainable. Upon a closer analysis of the writing, one can argue that the mother is not allowing her daughter to become her own person. She is instilling all hopes of her lost children on her sole child. In due course this short story looks at whether or not the pressure from the mother, hinders the daughter.

Sample Body Paragraph: (1) Upon a further examination, the mother’s constant pressure on the daughter was beginning to wear on her. (2) Jing-mei’s mother would consistently give her daughter tests and the expectations to succeed were high. (3) As the daughter states right after she failed to perform well at the climatic piano recital (4) “After seeing my mother’s disappointed face once again, something inside me began to die. I hated the tests, the raised hopes and failed expectations” (Tan 1152). (5,6) After seeing the dissatisfaction from her mother’s face, the tests and hopes for success, began to eat away at her. It began to tear at the daughter’s emotional state. (7) The consistent disappointment pushed the daughter to the point where she would not become someone.