1,100-WORD ANALYTICAL ESSAY

Write a 1,000-to-1,200-word, five (or more)-paragraph literary analysis of Kate Chopin’s “The Story of an Hour.” (Use the critical approaches discussed in class Sept. 1 to help you understand the story.) You must write on one (and only one) of these topics:

A. Nature imagery (birds, spring, the sky, and a storm) is prevalent in “The Story of an Hour.” What do these images suggest about Louise Mallard and her situation? Is she in tune with nature or in conflict with it and in what way(s)? What does this indicate about her character? (Strategies that may help you understand the imagery: formalist, archetypal, maybe gender)

B. An open window and a closed door (as well as a staircase and a front door) serve as significant architectural symbols in the story. How do they relate to the protagonist’s character? What do they suggest about the other characters? Does this suggest something about women or another subset of people in general? (Strategies that may help you understand the symbols: formalist and/or gender, possibly with elements of cultural)

C. “The Story of an Hour” uses some of the characters’ physical traits or characteristics as representative of their emotional makeup. Explain what each of these physical traits symbolizes. Do the characters’ personalities match their features? How does this help to make the theme (or “point”) of the story clearer? (Strategies that may help you understand the significance of the features: formalist and/or psychological, possibly with elements of historical and gender)

D. Consider how the minor characters in “The Story of an Hour” treat the main female character. Do you think these other people really understand what she is thinking and feeling? Why or why not? What does this suggest about all the characters (male and female) and/or the society in which they live? (Strategies that may help you understand the relationships: gender, psychological, and/or historical)

E. Consider the roles of conflict and resolution in a plot. “The Story of an Hour” has a rather unexpected ending. Does the ending resolve the conflict? Does it fit with the development of the protagonist (main character)? If so, how? Does this shock or surprise make for a satisfying ending? Why or why not? (Strategies that may help you understand the significance of the ending: formalist, psychological, and/or perhaps mythological)

Be sure that your essay focuses on a single main point that is clearly stated in the thesis. Do not try to write every thought that you have about the story; narrow your topic so that you can cover it completely in 1,100 words. I encourage you to visit the ASC with these assignment instructions before you begin your first draft.

Your essay must contain an introduction paragraph that includes the author’s name, title, genre, and theme and ends with the thesis statement. The essay must also include three or more body paragraphs providing specific “evidence” or details (including direct quotes from the story, at least one per body paragraph, and at least one quote from a SECONDARY [expert] source), and a concluding paragraph that returns to the idea of the thesis and provides a sense of closure.

Also, be sure you complete and submit all five steps in the writing process:

1. prewriting/brainstorming (on a separate sheet—bring to class Sept. 6, but to get credit you must also submit it on Canvas or bring the hard copy again on Sept. 29 for submission)
2. organizing/outline with thesis statement (see submission details for prewriting above)
3a. drafting (the first draft is due on Canvas when class begins Sept. 13, and you must bring one printout of the first draft to class that day)
4. revising (submit the draft to SmarThinking and/or the Academic Success Center AND participate in the small-group discussions on Sept. 13; these marked hard copies are due Sept. 29),
3b. drafting again (the second draft is due on Canvas when class begins Sept. 20, and you must bring TWO printouts of the second draft to class that day), and
5. proofreading (at least two classmates must proofread your essay at the Sept. 20 class, and these marked hard copies are due Sept. 29).

The final version of the essay is due on MyHCC/Canvas before class begins Sept. 29.

Final essays will NOT be accepted if you do not participate in and submit all five steps! Before outlining on the back, you MUST do prewriting (brainstorming) on a separate page.
SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR 1,100-WORD ANALYTICAL ESSAY

Submit your prewriting (brainstorming/jumbled, hit-or-miss thoughts) and outline (this form or any format you like, as long as it is organized effectively) on MyHCC / Canvas before beginning the first draft. (You must also submit rough drafts, in-class peer reviews, and tutors’ comments.) NOTE: Except for the thesis statement, the outline should be just organized ideas, not complete sentences.

INTRO “HOOK”:

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______________________________________________________________________________

THESIS STATEMENT = NARROWED TOPIC + CONTROLLING IDEA

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

PRIMARY POINT I: ______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
SECONDARY DETAIL (evidence/quote):
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

PRIMARY POINT II: ______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
SECONDARY DETAIL (evidence/quote):
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

PRIMARY POINT III: ______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
SECONDARY DETAIL (evidence/quote):
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

(If absolutely necessary, add more points to outline on another sheet, but keep the essay under 1,200 words.)

CONCLUSION:
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________