**Writing a Character Essay**

A **character essay** highlights several important characteristics or personality traits of a person—a real person, a person in literature, or an imagined person.

A **character trait** is a quality that distinguishes one individual from another. A good character essay provides supporting detail for each identified trait.

**Introduction: Paragraph one**

You should begin your essay by naming the character you have chosen. Include the book title (underlined) and the author’s name. Write a brief description of the character, which includes physical appearance and a brief background. You may include struggles your character faces.

**Body Paragraphs: Paragraph two, three, and four**

For each paragraph choose a trait or quality which describes the character. Support each trait with one or two examples from the story. Include a quote, which further supports this trait.

**Conclusion: Paragraph five**

In a final paragraph, explain how these traits fit together to make this character an overall good character or a character to be pitied. Did the character change, mature or learn anything? Did the character resolve conflict?