**Formative Experiences Stories – Synthesis Paper**  English IH Dudek

Typed draft due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Final Copy due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Submit final copy and all drafts attached below final copy.

**TASK**: To create an argumentative claim about the nature of formative experiences and the particular ways they shape a person’s development; to cite and paraphrase textual evidence from the stories, analyzing how that evidence develops one’s argumentative claim.

After reading and thinking about the 5 stories in this “formative experiences” unit, develop an argumentative claim about the nature of those experiences and how they shape one’s development. See if you can find a pattern that has emerged in these stories. Look for the common factors, perhaps a motivation or goal, a reaction to the situation, a plan to address the experience, failures and successes, expectations, etc. Is there a factor that helps some and hinders others in the way they resolve the issues of their formative experience? Do they grow in understanding? How so? If not, why might they stay more static? Is there a reason they might actually fare worse for the experience?

Claim:

Revised Claim:

What specific evidence can you now use to help you develop your argument? You should paraphrase some details of the story to make your point. You also should cite directly quoted evidence that helps you build your case. In both cases, you need to explain how this piece of evidence supports or develops your main claim. Be sure you are not just summarizing the story, but pulling out particular elements to help you prove this pattern you’ve been noticing. Choose 3 of the 5 stories to use. Make your notes below: Stories include “A&P,” “Araby,” “Young Goodman Brown,” “Cathedral,” and “Girl.”

Story 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Evidence – Paraphrase

Evidence – Direct Citation

Story 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Evidence – Paraphrase

Evidence – Direct Citation

Story 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Evidence – Paraphrase

Evidence – Direct Citation

Now write your intro paragraph. Start with a few more broad statements or some rhetorical questions about the notion that experiences do shape us and formative experiences in a more profound or memorable way. Then indicate the stories you’ll use. The author’s last name is used in conjunction with the title (short story titles are always enclosed in quotation marks) as you suggest which stories will be your focus for consideration. Finally, put your revised, argumentative claim at the end of your intro paragraph.

Decide how you will arrange your evidence in body paragraphs to build your case. Be sure to provide transitions. Why are we going from one thing to the next? Your topic and concluding sentences of each paragraph should help you provide a good focus for that paragraph in relation to your claim.

Finally, in your conclusion, you will want to restate your main claim (not necessarily in the exact same words) and briefly high-light the key evidence that built your case. You might also invite us to examine our own situation in light of your theory / argumentative claim.

Suggested length: 3 typed pages Submit final copy to turnitin.com

Today:

Begin your drafting. Bold your main claim in the intro paragraph.

Bold and underline your opening and closing sentences of EACH paragraph. These should be functioning as your topic and concluding sentences walking us logically through your paragraph and essay.