

PAPER #1:

1) JUXTAPOSE TWO SHORT STORIES and 2) USE THEORETICAL CONCEPT

Due Date: Wednesday, June 8

Length: 3 pages

Format: Double spaced, normal margins, page numbers, 12 point Times font
Create a header with your name. Cite page numbers parenthetically.

Texts: **Two short stories.** One story will be assigned in class, as listed on syllabus:
Group 1: Hawthorne; Group 2: Gilman; Group 3: Joyce; Group 4:
Hurston; Group 5: Faulkner.
You find the second short story—using anthologies you might
have/borrow or stories on the internet. Please don't select a "short
short" (ie: "Story of an Hour").
Abbott's *Introduction to Narrative*. Chapters 1-5. Select one concept/insight
that you find helpful in these chapters.

Topic: **What key concept, theme, structure, or device connects the two texts—and how can a bit of narrative theory (from Abbott) help you to clarify your thinking about that connection?** In this paper, I'm asking you to think about two distinct concerns:

1) Juxtaposition: How can we bring two short stories together to highlight a key concept, theme, structure, or device? What ideas make these two stories a good pair? Please try to discuss **both theme and form**. How can two texts make a key issue clearer for a class by exploring that issue in two different ways? (This could be thought of as a traditional comparison/contrast exercise.)

2) Narrative theory: How can a deeper understanding of "narrative" and its elements help you think about new ways into a short story? How can a theoretical concept help keep you intellectually invested in a text? (Remember, you would not have to present this theory to your students, but it would inform your own approach to the text.)

I am NOT asking you to create a detailed classroom exercise—YET! This mini-paper focuses on the thinking you'd do as a reader BEFORE you start to think as a teacher planning an exercise!

Tips:

1. As you juxtapose the two texts, select a short story you enjoy. Have fun thinking about unexpected connections between the two texts; be risky!
2. Use a helpful idea from Abbott to help you "bridge" the two texts. See theory as a way to "deepen" your thinking about these texts. Explain Abbott's idea to me and apply it
3. Use quotations from the short stories and Abbott.