

## **The Outsiders Personality Profile Essay**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment:** Your task is to write a seven-paragraph personality profile essay **about yourself and a character** in the novel *The Outsiders*. Once you have chosen a character to analyze, choose three adjectives or descriptive phrases which you can apply to the character – these are personality traits (mannerisms, behaviors, qualities, emotions, or individualities), that the character possesses. You will organize the body of your essay around these traits, however, you are to intertwine an analysis of your **own self**-character and personality traits in comparison or contrast to the character from *The Outsiders*. This will be done by referring to your MBTI personality profile.

**Heading:** Standard APA and a *creative* title

**Introduction:** In this first paragraph, you will introduce yourself and your character. Use an anecdote, a telling quote or incident from the novel, or a summary of how the character changes throughout the novel to engage your reader. Remember: your first line must be interesting! Your intro should be roughly 5-6 good sentences.

**Thesis Statement:** This sentence is the last sentence of your introductory paragraph. This sentence will inform the reader what he or she will read in your essay. The thesis should include the character's name and at least 3 adjectives.

**MODEL THESIS: Mirroring my personality as an ISFP on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, throughout the novel *The Outsiders*, Sodapop is presented as inquisitive, compassionate, and adventurous.**

This is a good thesis because the reader knows the first body paragraph will show how you and Soda are inquisitive, the second will demonstrate how you and Soda are compassionate, and the third adventurous. Also, the descriptors are vivid and apt for the character.

**BAD THESIS: In this essay, you will see how Sodapop is nice, young, and boyish.**

Remember, never write "in this essay" or "you" in formal compositions. Not to mention, these adjectives are weak – you can do better!

**Body Paragraphs 1 & 2:** Your topic sentence includes the first adjective listed in your thesis statement to describe the character. You will support that topic sentence with 4 examples from the book and at least 2 quotes. Your quotes must be cited in APA format. Make sure you explain the connection between the examples and the adjective. These paragraphs will also include connections, examples, and evidence from your own life and the MBTI. These paragraphs should be 6-8 good sentences in length.

**Body Paragraphs 3 & 4:** Your topic sentence includes the second adjective listed in your thesis statement to describe the character. You will support that topic sentence with 4 examples from the book and at least 2 quotes. Your quotes must be cited in APA format. Make sure you explain the connection between the examples and the adjective. These paragraphs will also include connections, examples, and evidence from your own life and the MBTI. These paragraphs should be 6-8 good sentences in length.

**Body Paragraphs 5 & 6:** Your topic sentence includes the third adjective listed in your thesis statement to describe the character. You will support that topic sentence with 4 examples from the book and at least 2 quotes. Your quotes must be cited in APA format. Make sure you explain the connection between the examples and the adjective. These paragraphs will also include connections, examples, and evidence from your own life and the MBTI. These paragraphs should be 6-8 good sentences in length.

**Conclusion:** Restate your thesis statement, but make sure you reword it. Provide some final thoughts about the character. Determine what additional points of view are needed to deepen the inquiry. This is the last paragraph your teacher reads – so make it good (5-6 sentences)!

**Quotation Requirements:** You must include the page number of the quotation and introduce or lead in the quotation properly. **For example: When describing Sodapop's rare sobriety, Ponyboy portrays him as someone who "gets drunk on just plain living" (Hinton 1967: 8).** (Notice how I introduced the quotation, where I put the quotation marks, and how I noted the page number.) See APA guidelines for more help.

**Character Choices for Analysis:** *Please note that some characters will be easier to analyze than others in that there will be more situations and examples from the text to incorporate into your essay. If you are interested in choosing an unlisted character, clear it with the teacher first.*

**Darry, Ponyboy, Sodapop, Dally, Two-Bit, Johnny, Steve, Bob, Cherry, Randy**

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### **Guidelines:**

- θ You need an introduction, five body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- θ Your direct quotations should be no more than three lines long each.
- θ Use an APA heading and page format
- θ The paper should be *at least* 3 typed pages long
- θ The paper must be typed; 12 point font; Times New Roman; one inch margins; double-spaced.
- θ You must have a *Creative Title*. “Soda” or something to that effect does not work.
- θ Include the “fishbone” planning sheet I gave you for your character along with your typed rough draft, peer edit, and rubric when you turn in your final copy.

### **Writing Tips You Must Follow (or lose points):** Check and double-check your paper.

- θ Avoid contractions (can’t, won’t, etc) unless in a quotation
- θ Don’t use slang or common words (thing, stuff, etc), unless in a quotation
- θ Do not underline or put your title in quotations
- θ Use sentence variety (simple, compound, complex)
- θ Use specific, vivid, and detailed incidents and examples to support your thesis
- θ Fix all comma splice errors, run-ons, and sentence fragments
- θ Run spell check, but remember that it won’t catch the wrong use of words (hear/here)
- θ Watch out for verb tense agreement
- θ Fix all typing errors
- θ Make sure all paragraphs are indented a half an inch
- θ Do not use “get” or “got.” Use stronger verbs!

# The Outsiders Personality Profile Essay

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## **Heading & Format:**

- \_\_\_ Standard APA format.
- \_\_\_ Creative Title.
- \_\_\_ Do not underline or put own title in quotations, bold or larger size.
- \_\_\_ Paper is *at least* 3 pages long.
- \_\_\_ Paper is typed.
- \_\_\_ 12 point font.
- \_\_\_ Times New Roman.
- \_\_\_ One inch margins.
- \_\_\_ Double-spaced.
- \_\_\_ All paragraphs are indented ½ inch.
- \_\_\_ Pages numbered.

## **Introduction:**

- \_\_\_ Use an anecdote, a telling quote or incident from the novel, or a summary of how the character changes throughout the novel to engage your reader.
- \_\_\_ First line must be interesting!
- \_\_\_ Intro should be 5-6 good sentences.
- \_\_\_ Novel title is *italicized*

## **Thesis Statement:**

- \_\_\_ Last sentence of introductory paragraph.
- \_\_\_ Includes the character's name and the 3 adjectives.

## **Body Paragraph 1 & 2:**

- \_\_\_ Topic sentence includes the first adjective listed in thesis statement.
- \_\_\_ 4 Examples.
- \_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Quote (no longer than 3 lines).
- \_\_\_ Explanation.
- \_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> quote (no longer than 3 lines).
- \_\_\_ Explanation
- \_\_\_ Quote cited in APA format.
- \_\_\_ Connection between the examples and the adjective.
- \_\_\_ Paragraph is 6-8 good sentences.

## **Body Paragraph 3 & 4:**

- \_\_\_ Topic sentence includes the first adjective listed in thesis statement.
- \_\_\_ 4 Examples.
- \_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Quote (no longer than 3 lines).
- \_\_\_ Explanation.
- \_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> quote (no longer than 3 lines).
- \_\_\_ Explanation
- \_\_\_ Quote cited in APA format.
- \_\_\_ Connection between the examples and the adjective.
- \_\_\_ Paragraph is 6-8 good sentences.

## **Body Paragraph 5 & 6:**

- \_\_\_ Topic sentence includes the first adjective listed in thesis statement.
- \_\_\_ 4 Examples.
- \_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Quote (no longer than 3 lines).
- \_\_\_ Explanation.
- \_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> quote (no longer than 3 lines).
- \_\_\_ Explanation
- \_\_\_ Quote cited in APA format.
- \_\_\_ Connection between the examples and the adjective.
- \_\_\_ Paragraph is 6-8 good sentences.

## **Conclusion:**

- \_\_\_ Restate (reword) thesis statement.
- \_\_\_ Final thoughts about the character.
- \_\_\_ 5-6 sentences.

## **Writing Tips You Must Follow**

- \_\_\_ Avoid contractions unless in a quotation.
- \_\_\_ Don't use slang or common words unless in a quotation.
- \_\_\_ Use sentence variety (simple, compound, complex).
- \_\_\_ Fix all comma splices & run-ons.
- \_\_\_ Fix sentence fragments.
- \_\_\_ Punctuation is accurate.
- \_\_\_ Run spell check.
- \_\_\_ Verb tense.
- \_\_\_ Fix all typing errors.

Have you: \_\_\_\_\_ Self-edited \_\_\_\_\_ Peer Edited  
**If you can honestly say you have addressed every one of these issues, then you are done!**