**School Ties**  
**Character Analysis Essay**

**Assignment:** Your task is to write a six paragraph character analysis essay about a character from the movie *School Ties*. Once you have chosen a character to analyze, choose **three** adjectives or descriptive phrases which you can apply to the character - these are traits that the character possesses. You will organize the body of your essay around these three traits.

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

**Introduction:** In this first paragraph, you will introduce your character, actor who played the character and the title of the movie. Use an anecdote, a telling quote or incident from the movie, 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 the 3 adjectives.

**MODEL THESIS:** Throughout the movie *School Ties*, Sally Wheeler presents herself as coquettish, pretentious, and disloyal.

This is a good thesis because the reader knows the first body paragraph will show how Sally is coquettish (flirtatious; behaving in a light-hearted manner), the second will demonstrate how she is pretentious (snobby), and the third disloyal. Also, the descriptors are vivid and apt for the character.

**BAD THESIS:** In this essay, you will see how Sally is nice, young, and a liar. Remember, never write “in this essay” or “you” in formal compositions. Not to mention, these adjectives are weak - **you can do better**!

**Body Paragraph #1:** Your topic sentence includes the first adjective listed in your thesis statement to describe your character. You will support that topic sentence with 3 examples from the movie. Make sure you explain the connection between the examples and the adjective. This paragraph should be 6-8 good sentences in length.

**Body Paragraph #2:** Your topic sentence includes the second adjective listed in your thesis statement to describe your character. You will support that topic sentence with 3 examples from the movie. Make sure you explain the connection between the examples and the adjective. This paragraph should be 6-8 good sentences in length.

**Body Paragraph #3:** Your topic sentence includes the third adjective listed in your thesis statement to describe your character. You will support that topic sentence with 3 examples from the movie. Make sure you explain the connection between the examples and the adjective. This paragraph should be 6-8 good sentences in length.

**Body Paragraph #4:** You topic sentence will mention the lesson your character learned throughout the movie. You will support this change by BRIEFLY explaining the events that occurred leading to the change. If there was no change, explain why your character remained a static character using specific examples from the movie.

**Conclusion:** Restate your thesis statement, but make sure you **reword it**. Provide some final thoughts about the character. Explain the lesson learned & what one can learn from them. This is the last paragraph your teacher reads, so make it good (5-6 sentences). Be sure to end with a clencher statement.
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.

David Greene, Charlie Dillion, Sally Wheeler, Chris Reece, Rip Van Kelt, McGivern, or Professor Cleary

Guidelines:

- You need an introduction, four body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Use an MLA heading and page format
- The paper should be at least 2 typed pages long
- The paper must be typed; 12 point font; Times New Roman; one inch margins; double-spaced. - HELLO MLA FORMAT!!!
- You must have a Creative Title. “David” or something to that effect does not work. Use a “Universal Truth”
- Include the planning sheet I gave you for your character along with your typed rough draft, and peer edit when you turn in your final copy.

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

- Avoid contractions (can’t, won’t, etc) unless in a quotation
- Don’t use slang or common words (thing, stuff, etc), unless in a quotation
- Write only in third person. Don’t use “you” or “I.”
- Do not underline or put your title in quotations
- Use sentence variety (simple, compound, complex)
- Use specific, vivid, and detailed incidents and examples to support your thesis
- Fix all comma splice errors, run-ons, and sentence fragments.
- Run spell check, but remember that it won’t catch the wrong use of words (hear/here)
- Write in all present tense. Books never “end” - they continue on for a new reader.
- Fix all typing errors.
- Make sure all paragraphs are indented.
- Do not use “get” or “got.” Use stronger verbs!