

Essay 1: Character Analysis

Select one of the major characters from *Whale Rider* (Paikea, Koro, Nanny, or Rawiri) and write a 2-3-page character analysis based on the 4 working styles (explore, excite, examine, execute) we've been learning about in class. Your thesis should answer the following question: **which working style(s) best describe your character and why?** The rest of the essay needs the support your thesis with evidence from the film. Thus, the body of the paper should show and explain how the character exhibits particular traits of that working style take from the analysis sheets we've been using on ourselves and our friends in class.

Use your character evaluation sheet to help focus on a few key traits of the character. Then provide evidence from the movie and explanation to back up your argument.

As our discussions of the film in class will show, there is no one correct answer to which working styles apply to each character. Therefore, the strength of your thesis will rely on your ability to bring in evidence to back it up. This evidence will come in the form of description of specific scenes, events, and quotation of dialogue from the movie.

This essay provides a way for you to practice using different forms of evidence—description, paraphrase and direct quotation. I also expect you to demonstrate understanding of how to focus and structure a paragraph clearly, and how to present a clear thesis statement.

To receive a passing grade, the essay must fulfill the following minimum requirements:

- Use MLA format
- Introduce sources properly (the movie, *Whale Rider*)
- Use quotation, description, and/or paraphrase from the film as evidence
- Focus on a thesis that clearly responds to the prompt
- Use focused paragraph structure
- Explain how the evidence illustrates or proves some aspect of the thesis
- Be 2-3 pages long