Introduction Requirements

Your character analysis intro paragraph is due on Tuesday, Sept. 29. (No drafts after 2:00 p.m. on Monday.) Please keep these requirements in mind:

Your heading should not include your name, only your SID.
Double space and use Times New Roman, 12 point font.
Use the “front door approach” (1) and consciously use a method of development (2). (See LBB pages 59-60.)
Also be a “stickler for continuity” and connect your sentences and ideas (3).
Try not to exceed 150 words (note the word count). I would shoot for 125 words.
Have a title and indent.
Introduce author (usually last name only) and story using proper form. (“Everyday Use,”
“Cathedral,” or “Shiloh,”)
Discuss a character with some substance. (Remember that the eventual character analysis essay
needs to be 600-800 words.)
Avoid quotations.
Conclude the paragraph with your thesis statement and forecast (or preview or blueprint) your
argument with two or three “subject segments (4).

While you are responsible for all of the above, most of the subjective grading will be based on the
four numbered requirements.

When in doubt, check Trimble or email me

greg.giddings@mwsu.edu

“A&P”’s Sammy: A Despicable Character

I sat next to Sammy in fourth period chemistry during my senior year of high school.

Actually, his name wasn’t Sammy. But Brad (his real name) reminds me of Sammy, the narrator of
John Updike’s short story “A&P.” Naturally, Brad cheated off of the girl next to him and made a
“A.” I did my own work and struggled to earn a “C.” But Brad thought the rules were for others; he
thought he was special, above it all. I couldn’t stand him. When I read “A&P,” I realized that, for
similar reasons, I dislike Sammy, too, mainly because he’s mean-spirited and arrogant. (103 words-
-method of development: anecdote)

Now, you folks can certainly use an anecdote, but I don’t want ideas similar to my intro paragraph:
no imaginary students, no chemistry class, no nothing like the above, got it?
In case you were wondering, in my “Sammy” essay, I use the Trimble intro paragraph on the middle of page 28 as a template for development and organization; I don’t echo the content.

Below is another example, this one with a different developmental strategy:

Sammy: An Arrogant Character

Why do I dislike Sammy so much, the narrator of Updike’s “A&P”? I was nineteen once, and no doubt, I shared a number of Sammy’s character traits, even his most obnoxious ones. Yet in middle age, I have become increasingly intolerant of what I once considered boyish behavior. So Sammy’s juvenile sense of humor not only doesn’t amuse me; it actually offends me. Particularly offensive are Sammy’s attempts at cleverness, which stem largely from “put-down” lines. This tactic reveals exactly where Sammy feels he stands in the world: above everyone else. Indeed, Sammy considers himself superior to the other characters in “A&P,” and this arrogant attitude toward the store’s patrons and his co-workers is why I find him so annoying. (120 words—method of development: question)

In my generalized character evaluation, my main idea is that Sammy is annoying. Then my major points of support, in order, will be the store’s patrons, then Sammy’s co-workers.

Note that the subject segments only “hint at” the major supportive ideas. Each idea that I list does not necessarily mean that it will manifest itself in a single paragraph, right? In fact, each idea above will likely be addressed in two body paragraphs.