Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Due Dates:\_\_\_\_\_\_Outline \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Chart \_\_\_\_\_\_1st body paragraph \_\_\_\_\_2nd body paragraph

\_\_\_\_\_3rd body paragraph \_\_\_\_\_completed first draft \_\_\_\_\_\_final, polished essay

Essay Assignment for *A Doll’s House*

Below are several thesis statements for you to choose from for your five paragraph essay on the play. You may choose one of these thesis statements, or you may create your own with my approval.

All of the proof you uncover to support your thesis statement must come primarily from the play itself. However, you may reference your charts and articles about the attitudes and laws of Victorian society.

You will create your chart outline and rough draft outside of class. Your outline will include your thesis statement and your three topic sentences. Under each of your three topic sentences, you will have a chart with headings that shows the logical flow of proof each supporting example will provide.

Your rough draft should have an introduction, three body paragraphs and a conclusion.   
Use your blue sheet essay writing guide to help you.   
You should type your essay and use MLA format.

Thesis Statement Choices:

1. Torvald’s treatment of his wife, Nora, demonstrates his Victorian belief that women are inferior to men.
2. The more Nora works to keep Torvald from discovering her illegal loan and her efforts to pay it back, the more she keeps Torvald from knowing her true self.
3. Because Nora’s perspective is so influenced by the laws and social expectations of Victorian Society, she sacrifices so much of herself for the happiness of her husband.
4. Nora’s tarantella dance is an apt symbol for her marital dance with Torvald.

Below is a sample sentence outline and chart outline for a possible essay. You may use them to write your paper, or you may use them as a guide for your own outline and chart for the thesis statement of your choice. If you choose a different thesis statement, I will help you with your topic sentences.   
  
Thesis Statement: Torvald’s treatment of his wife, Nora, demonstrates his Victorian belief that women are inferior to men.

Topic Sentence 1: First, his condescending endearments towards Nora show his belief that she is a doll or a pet and not an equal partner.

Topic Sentence 2: Secondly, his blatant insults about Nora and those she cares about show his insensitivity to the feelings of a woman.

Topic Sentence 3: Finally, his efforts to control her every action show his belief that she cannot accomplish a task well without his guidance and instruction.

Thesis Statement: Torvald’s treatment of his wife, Nora, demonstrates his Victorian belief that women are inferior to men.

Topic Sentence One: First, his condescending endearments towards Nora show his belief that she is a doll or a pet and not an equal partner.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Various endearments Torvald calls Nora *including  1)the quotes containing the endearments and  2) the context (time, place, and circumstance) surrounding these endearments* | How these endearments are condescending *or insulting to Nora—including…*  *1) an explanation of Torvald’s actions and words before and after his use of the “endearments”  2) relevant, contextual quotes that further prove T’s endearments are insults* | How Torvald’s use of these condescending endearments shows his belief that Nora is inferior*—in other words, how does your evidence SHOW that Torvald thinks he is superior to Nora* |
| a. |  |  |
| b. |  |  |
| c. |  |  |

Topic Sentence 2: Secondly, his blatant insults about Nora and those she cares about show his insensitivity to the feelings of a woman.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Torvald’s blatant insults towards Nora and those she cares about, *including …*   1. *the quotes containing the blatant insults and* 2. *the context in which the insults are used* | How these insults show insensitivity and disregard for Nora’s feelings, *including…*   1. *an explanation of what makes T’s insults demonstrate T’s clueless regard for Nora’s feelings* 2. *relevant, contextual quotes that further prove Torvald’s insensitivity* | How Torvald’s  insensitivity towards Nora shows his belief that women are inferior*—in other words how does your evidence SHOW that Torvald’s belief that women are inferior often keeps him from considering their feelings* |
| a. |  |  |
| b. |  |  |
| c. |  |  |

Topic Sentence 3: Finally, his efforts to control her every action show his belief that she cannot accomplish a task well without his guidance and instruction.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Torvald’s efforts to control Nora’s actions, *including…*   1. *the quotes that show Torvald’s control of Nora* 2. *the context in which this control occurs* | How these efforts demonstrate his need to control, *including…*   1. *an explanation of ways the examples of T’s control demonstrate his need to be in charge of Nora’s every move* 2. *relevant, contextual quotes that further prove Torvald’s controlling ways* | How such a need to control Nora shows Torvald’s beliefs that women are inferior—*in other words, how does your evidence SHOW that Torvald believes he is superior to Nora (and to women in general)* |
| a. |  |  |
| b. |  |  |
| c. |  |  |