



Troy University  
Trio - Student Support Services  
2016 Grant Aid Scholarship  
Required Reading Assignment

The selected reading is “*Miriam*” (first published in the June 1945 issue of *Mademoiselle* magazine). The **short story author** is Truman Capote (b. 1924 – d. 1984).

**FREE ONLINE SOURCES OF THE TEXT ARE LISTED BELOW.**

**Full-text PDF** available online: [http://www.troy.edu/studentsupportservices/assets/documents/forms/Miriam-Grant-Aid\\_Reading\\_Requirement\\_Assignment.pdf](http://www.troy.edu/studentsupportservices/assets/documents/forms/Miriam-Grant-Aid_Reading_Requirement_Assignment.pdf)

A **video** depicting aspects of the story is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9Z7xMQPKmM>.

**READING AND WRITING ASSIGNMENT and INSTRUCTIONS ARE LISTED BELOW.**

Use **Times New Roman** font (12-point) for this writing assignment. Type and double space your writing.

- ✓ After you have carefully read the story, write a **two to three-paragraph summary and critique** of the story. Make sure in your summary you identify the main character(s), briefly synopsise the plot without retelling the entire story, and point out a *basic theme* in the story, one with real life applications or that motivate you to consider some contemporary issue in society. In the **critique**, evaluate the story’s value and discuss whether or not other college students could benefit from reading the story.
- ✓ Next, write two to three paragraphs **about the author**, his upbringing, general themes or subject matters he tended to explore in his works, and his important connection to Alabama. You will have to research to locate biographical information on this writer. Therefore, cite your sources and avoid using *wiki* sources.
- ✓ In the **final paragraph**, explain how you would lead a discussion about this story if you were assigned to do so for a class or asked to do so for a community group. What would be the focus of your discussion and why would you choose such a focus?
- ✓ In total, you should submit a minimum of **five (5) paragraphs, plus a separate works cited page** with a minimum of two sources listed.

Cite sources and specify page numbers if you directly quote any sources, including the story itself.

**Paraphrase** as much as possible. You will lose points for stringing together quotes, which could be perceived as an intentional or inadvertent form of **plagiarism**. **Reminder:** Do not plagiarize.

Avoid using the second person (you) point of view.

Use the **MLA format**.

Create a **works cited** page that includes an entry for each source you use, including an entry for the PDF copy of the story and any other sources you may reference in the assignment.

Remember to apply the rules of grammar and basic writing mechanics.

**Reminder:** Apply critical thinking skills and proofread carefully before submitting this assignment.