

For the following items, *state evidence* from the short story and essay to support your views.

Be sure to indicate page numbers of evidence using parenthetical citations.

Have someone with neat handwriting supply full sentence answers on this sheet.

1. Summarize the supplied excerpt from Dr. Carol Johnson in five sentences or more. What is she proposing overall?
2. Looking primarily at pages 465, *pick one major point* Johnson uses as evidence.
3. **How does the group feel about her concept? Can you see the logic and validity in her argument? Explain in detail why or why not with evidence from the essay and story.**

Example response:

(1) Dr. Carol Johnson establishes in her literary criticism that Edgar Allan Poe’s story “The Cask of Amontillado” is primarily a story of justified and perfect revenge. As well, she asserts the fact that Montresor does not feel guilt for the act, despite the momentary hesitation on his part. Her major conclusion is centered on Poe, showing himself wearing a mask of Montresor in order to gain justified revenge on negative criticism of his own time period. **(2)** She focuses primarily on the image of Montresor’s family crest, detailed in Poe’s story, and how “precise the contradiction is played out between the human foot treading on the attacking snake” (465). Johnson claims the snake, like Montresor, is justified in attacking the human, Fortunato, and therefore does not feel remorse for his actions. His act, she claims is instinctual (465). **(3)** We agree as a group Johnson had a valid point—although one member did point out that Montresor never defines Fortunato’s crimes, and that Poe purposely leaves the relationship rather unclear to allow for differences of opinion. Overall, Montresor’s “confession” appears too much of a boast; the closing statement “*In pace requiescat!*” (330) should be attributed to Montresor as well. With that in mind, the character knows he is going to hell without any chance of retribution.