

## Reading Exercise: Applying Concepts

*Connecting concepts to characters for stronger analysis.*

The documented essay assignment asks you in part to use ideas, concepts, or theories from the outside readings to analyze a character from *A Doll's House*. When applying concepts, it is important to explain both the concept and what it lets you understand about the character. That is, *apply the concept to the character* rather than having separate discussions of the concept and the character. Presenting the concept without applying it is not very useful since it forces the reader to make the connection, and, without your guidance, the reader is likely to make a connection different from what you intended, making your point unclear and less convincing.

1. Find a quote-worthy idea, concept, or theory from one of the documented essay outside readings. Copy it and then explain in your own words what the author means.
2. Next choose a speech from *A Doll's House* that you feel is somehow related to this idea. Quote and then restate this example.
3. Next, write three-four sentences that use the outside author's ideas to understand and discuss the Ibsen character.
4. Decide what point the idea or theory helped you make about the character and write a sentence that asserts that point.
5. Finally write a paragraph that puts all the information from 1-4 together smoothly and in the most appropriate order (which might not be 1, 2, 3, 4). Make sure to include a quotation from both texts and to write a clear topic sentence (which most likely asserts something about the character) and paragraph closure sentence.