Character Analysis Outline

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. **First sentence (a quote, a questions, an interesting fact)**

Example 1: Courage can be defined as strength in the face of pain or grief.

Example 2: Mark Twain once said that, “Courage is not the absence of fear, it is acting in spite of it”.

1. **A sentence that connects your first sentence with the summary.**

Example 1: No one better shows this definition better than Anna Avalon.

Example 2: Anna Avalon surely acted courageous in spite of the fear that she must have been feeling many times in her life.

1. **A sentence that tell the title of the story and the author’s name and a short summary:**

Example: In the short story titled “The Leap” by Louise Erdrich a daughter tells the story of her mother, a trapeze artist who has now gone blind, and the many reasons that she owes her life to her mother.

1. **A thesis statement that tells what your essay is going to be about**:

Example 1: Anna Avalon is portrayed as a person who is very courageous. This is shown through the actions that her mother describes.

Example 2: Anna Avalon is a very courageous woman, which is shown by how she saved her daughter on three different occasions.

Example 3: One character trait of Anna Avalon is that she is very courageous. This is shown when she saves herself in a lightning accident, when she meets and falls in love a second time, and when she saves her daughter from a burning house.

Example 4: Throughout the story we learn that Anna Avalon is a character who is courageous, smart and graceful.

Example 5: Through Anna Avalon’s actions we discover that she is courageous, smart and graceful.

**BODY PARAGRAPHS:**

Think of the acronym ICE = **I**ntroduce, **C**ite and **E**xplain.

Example 1: Anna Avalon showed how courageous she was when she saved her own life in order to save her daughter. Anna’s daughter explains how her mother was in a freak lightning accident that could have left her dead but that, “she could have grasped his ankle, the toe-end of his tights, and gone down clutching him. Instead, she changed direction” (Erdrich 192).In this moment her mother had the courage to let her husband fall to his death in order to save herself and more importantly, the daughter she was carrying in her belly.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. A sentence that connect to your first sentence in the introduction:

Example 1: First sentence in intro was: Example 1: Courage can be defined as strength in the face of pain or grief.

So you could write: Anna Avalon certainly faced pain and grief in her life, and remained strong throughout.

Example 2: Mark Twain once said that, “Courage is not the absence of fear, it is acting in spite of it”.

So you could write: Anna Avalon must have faced a lot of fear in her life, but somehow she kept moving forward.

1. A sentence that restates your thesis statement in a different way…re-word your thesis statement.
2. Leave the reader with something to think about (about the story, or the subject or a lesson that could be learned).

Example 1: We can learn a valuable lesson from this courageous character. Stay strong and keep moving forward.

Example 2: Louise Erdrich showed the reader, through the main character, that it takes courage to stay strong and to move forward in life, even with the many obstacles that one must face.