“Small Avalanches” Essay Assignment

Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Prompt: What do Nancy’s reactions to her unexpected situation reveal about her character?

In addition to using quotations from the short story, incorporate a phrase or sentence from the following article from literary critic Joseph Palmisano taken from page 1.

One of the most prolific and versatile contemporary American writers, Oates has published myriad novels, short stories, poems, and plays, as well as books and articles of criticism and nonfiction. In these works, Oates focuses on what she views as the spiritual, sexual, and intellectual decline of modern American society….

In the stories comprising *Small Avalanches and Other Stories* (2003), a collection for young women, the pieces focus on vulnerable, rebellious girls who fall victim to older, predatory males. Commentators note that Oates occupies a controversial position in the feminist literary tradition.… Her female characters are not considered feminist in nature: they are often dependent and passive and withdraw from sexual and emotional connections instead of articulating their needs and frustrations. Moreover, the objectification and abuse of women—sexually, physically, and emotionally—has been a recurring theme in Oates's work.

No works cited is needed, but I am looking to see fluent integration of the primary and secondary sources. Include (short) introductory and concluding paragraphs.