

Essay and Works Cited

For more information see the Literary
Style Guide on the school website

Start at the End

What is your Goal?

- STEP ONE: DETERMINE YOUR PURPOSE and APPROACH!
(aka: Your End Goal!)
 - ✓ Do I want to defend my topic?
 - ✓ Am I being asked to describe my topic?
 - ✓ Is the topic best explored using cause and effect or chronological organizational patterns?
 - ✓ What are my options????

The Starting Line...

Understand the question:

- break it down so you know exactly what is being asked
- do any research needed to help you to understand the question
- connect background knowledge to the topic

Create a thesis

- Brainstorm
- Group
- Observe
- Ask

- See next slide for details...

Steps to Creating a Thesis

- **Brainstorm all** possible characters, themes or devices etc. that relate to the topic. Do not limit yourself to a certain perspective at first. (The argument that you personally support or “like” may not be the argument that has the most evidence.)
- **From the brainstormed list, group** similar characters, symbols, character traits, rhetorical devices, elements of fiction etc.
- **All criteria should relate because they are all connected to the topic.**
- **Record** how these criteria are similar...
- Why/How does this provide insight into your author’s perspective on the topic?
- The answer to this should be your thesis.

The Thesis

What is a Thesis?

- It is an argument or a insight into a subject
- It tries to uncover what the author is saying about that topic by noticing trends or recurring events, characters, or ideas in the text
- It answers the questions “how” or “why” or looks at causes and effects related to the topic

A Weak Thesis

- **Re-states** a general or philosophical statement that sounds a lot like the topic but is not specific to the text (name the text and the specific insight please).
- Is **too specific** (Macbeth is a tragic hero because he dies at the end of the play)
- Makes a **simple announcement** (In this essay, it will be proven that...)
- States the **obvious** (Macbeth is a tragedy)
- **States a topic** (know the difference!)

A Strong Thesis

- Specific
- Singular
- Supportable
- Significant

Determine Organization and Purpose

- **How will I organize my ideas to best prove my thesis?**

1. Chronology
2. Cause and Effect
3. Process

What approach will best help you to argue our thesis?

- **What is my purpose?**

1. Analyze/Expose
2. Describe
3. Compare/Contrast
4. Argue/Persuade

Next Step: Building The Essay

- Create an outline based on your teacher's requirements. A graphic organizer is helpful here. Let this be messy! (Ex. Argument Analysis Chart)
- Permit yourself to add to or alter your thesis and points throughout!

It is time to build the introductory paragraph

Ingredients:

- The Lead
- The Plan of Development
- The Thesis

Types of Introductions - #1

Funnel Introduction:



The Lead

Grabs the reader's attention using a text to world connection.

Sample Lead + Thesis

To live is to struggle. Each individual endures life and its hardships uniquely, and this unique experience is often referred to as a hero's journey (Campbell, 1975). Authors have used this journey as the central conflict to drive the plots of such great literature as *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *Macbeth*. William Golding was inspired by this concept of the hero's journey when he wrote *The Lord of the Flies* after witnessing the horrors of war. He was intrigued by man's journey to overcome his animalistic desires for power. In *Lord of the Flies*, Golding uses symbolism to represent the journey of mankind to be ruled by rational thought rather than the desire for power.

You've got my attention, now what?

- Thesis
 - Plan of Development or Organizational Statement

This identifies the sub-topics that will be used in the body to describe, justify, or expose the main topic – your thesis.

Sample Thesis + POD (Comparative Essay)

- Thesis: In *The Old Man and the Sea* Hemingway employs rhetorical devices to create an allegorical study of the trials experienced by the elderly in a capricious world.
- POD: Hemingway employs contrast to demonstrate the pathos behind aging man's loss of physical power in an unreliable world. Symbols, representations of elements in the human experience, lend a fresh interpretation of the injustice experienced by the innocent within an arbitrary world. Finally, there are allusions to Christ's journey throughout the text to exemplify the old man's struggle to endure the hardships of this life.

The Body Paragraph

First write the Sub-Topic then...

- **Point A** (the first example to prove the subtopic)
- **Proof** (a direct quote to show this point in action)
- **Comment** (explains the context of the quote and connects it to your sub-topic). Your transition may happen in the comment or in the next point.
- **Point B**
- **Proof**
- **Comment** (also connects the sub-topic, as a whole, to the thesis)

After organizing an outline and choosing the thesis, points and proofs...

If In Class...

- Edit as you write
- Watch the clock
- Don't be a perfectionist
- If time permits, read it through one last time before submitting and use carets to add any missing information.

If at Home...

- Write the rough draft
- Have it peer edited for big ideas
- Read one sentence at a time for basic grammar
- Step away
- Return with a clear mind for one last read through before submitting.

Always submit the outline, rough work and good copy.

On page one of the good copy at left margin incl.:

- Your name
- Teacher's name
- Class Code
- Date

Center and to the right:

- Title centered on pg.1
- Your last name with page number in rt. Corner on every page

All double spaced

Style Guide p. 4

Direct Quotes

MLA: Use The Style Guide !

- Don't over quote
- Quote original sources **exactly as you find them**
- Short quotes are to be worked into the essay according to MLA standards, "Blah, blah, blah!"(1.2.1-4).
- Long quotes are to be indented 1 inch without quotation marks
- Page numbers and sometimes author's names or titles etc. are in brackets after the quotes depending on source (see style guide for specifics)
- Sic is used after a quote if there are mistakes inside the quote
- Use square brackets when you add information inside a quote
- Use (/) for combining lines of poetry or plays inside a quote
- See p.13 to learn how to cite long monologues vs dialogues
- Go to p.16 to learn the rules for using an elipses
- There are many punctuation rules for using quotes: see p.14

The Last Pg. of the Essay

This must be on its own separate page!

Works Cited Page (we use this)

- List the works cited throughout the essay on this last page.
- Remember to use the last name of the author first and list the resources using alphabetical order based on the last name.
- See page 22 onwards for specifics as you write!

Bibliography (we do not use this)

- The list of all works consulted for the paper
- Annotated bibliography contains the list of work consulted and a short summary of the pertinent information