The Essay

Suggestions for Improvement
The Lead

If you use a quote in the lead, it must be integrated into the paragraph through the use of transitional words/phrases. Explain the context of the quote and link it to the thesis.
AVOID: “Time is a dressmaker specializing in alterations” (Faith Baldwin). Time is able to control what happens in peoples lives and it is not always desirable as is evident in Romeo and Juliet...

BETTER: Time has been referred to as “a dressmaker specializing in alterations” (Faith Baldwin). This means that time is responsible for making changes in peoples’ lives. William Shakespeare was inspired by this concept of time when writing Romeo and Juliet...
The Thesis

Remember to edit the thesis for the 4S’s:
1. Supportable (people did well with this)
2. Singular (people did well with this)
3. Specific

We have to strengthen these
4. Significant
SAMPLE VAGUE VS. SPECIFIC

VAGUE: Shakespeare demonstrates that the supernatural can determine fate.

Why or How?

BETTER: William Shakespeare demonstrates that the supernatural determines human fate through the manipulation of time.
Significance

A thesis should be written in such a way that it presents an argument that is significant to the audience and humanity.
**Not significant:** In *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare demonstrates how the supernatural controls Romeo through the manipulation of time.

**Significant:** In *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare uses Romeo to demonstrate how the supernatural controls humanity through the manipulation of time.
Subtopics:

When writing the topic sentence for the body paragraphs, make sure that you include reference to the thesis.

AVOID: Juliet wakes after Romeo has already taken his own life, which leads to her suicide.

BETTER: It is evident that time acts as a catalyst for Juliet’s death when Juliet wakes moments after Romeo has already taken his own life, which leads to her suicide.
Avoid simplistic statements

**Avoid:** The quote defends the topic because when Tybalt is telling...

**BETTER:** This quote demonstrates that the supernatural uses time to manipulate people when Tybalt...
The title of the essay can not be the name of the text alone. Instead, state the topic and the text.

Ex. The Role of the Supernatural in Romeo and Juliet is better than Romeo and Juliet Essay
There is NO title page.

The title page information goes on the first page of the essay.

Your name
Teacher’s name
Course Code
Date of Submission

Title of the essay
First sentence of introductory paragraph...
Editing Concerns

- Literary Present
- Consistent use of Double Spacing throughout
- NO contractions
- NO personal pronouns or second person
- Punctuating Quotes

Let’s look at the literary style guide together...
Let’s start on your next essay...

Timeline:
1. **This weekend**, determine a thesis and subtopics. Choose quotes.
2. **Monday**: write the outline for the essay
3. **Tuesday**: write the essay in class using pencil
4. **Wednesday**: edit the essay and submit
John Steinbeck was a social critic who commented on the discrimination that existed during the 1930’s in his novel Of Mice and Men. Write a literary essay exploring the specific message Steinbeck is trying to impart on his audience regarding the cause or effect of discrimination.
THESIS: In *Of Mice and Men* John Steinbeck demonstrates how the predatory nature of humanity leads to discrimination.

POD = Curly discriminates against Lennie
Curly’s wife discriminates against Crooks
The men discriminate against women

All three subtopics show how people prey on those who they perceive to be weaker in order to gain a sense of power through dominance. This results in discrimination.
THESIS: In *Of Mice and Men* John Steinbeck demonstrates how discrimination prevents one from achieving the American Dream.

POD: Crooks

   Lennie

   Curly’s wife
If everything else is done well...

**Level 3:** Use one of the sample essays and develop it into an essay.

**Level 4:** Create an original thesis and develop it into an essay.