Essay and Works Cited

For more information see the Literary Essay Style Guide on the school website
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 topic
• connect background knowledge to the topic

Keep organized notes!!!!!!
The Thesis

What is a Thesis?

• It is an argument or an 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 (ex: William Golding uses symbolism to explore the theme of civilization vs savagery - there is no specific insight here) Name the text and the specific insight please.

- **Is too specific** (Macbeth is a tragic hero because he is the protagonist in a tragedy)

- 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 between topic and insight)
A Strong Thesis…

- **THINK 4 S’s…**

**Significant** - you address a central lesson regarding your topic

**Specific** – states the text and insight

**Singular** – focus on one argument

**Supportable** – there are at least three subtopics with two examples for each one
Steps to Creating a Thesis

• **Brainstorm**: write down EVERYTHING you know about your topic - NEVER WRITE YOUR THESIS UNLESS YOU BRAINSTORM FIRST!

• Look for ways to **group the brainstormed facts**: are there subtopics under which the facts can be grouped?

• Based on these groups, **identify what the author is saying about your assigned topic**.

• **This insight becomes your thesis**! From this brainstorming, you should find a thesis, subtopics and examples: the essay’s map!
Determine Your Approach

**Does your assigned topic lend itself to:**

a) A cause and effect approach
b) A chronological exploration
c) A comparative approach

You must be aware of the approach you are using because each body paragraph must stick to this pattern for your message to be communicated clearly.
It is time to build the introductory paragraph

**Ingredients:**
- The Lead
- The Plan of Development
- The Thesis

![Types of Introductions - #1](image)

Funnel Introduction:
- General Statements
- Thesis Statement
The Lead

Grabs the reader's attention through a text to world connection…
You’ve got my attention, now what?

• Thesis – You have that waiting on the brainstormed pages, simply transfer it into the intro paragraph.

• 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.
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, like many authors, was intrigued by man’s journey to overcome his animalistic desires for power after witnessing the horrors of war. In *Lord of the Flies*, Golding uses symbolism to demonstrate how when a society lacks strong leadership, humans are naturally ruled by their animalistic instincts. He uses the conch, the fire, and the boys themselves as symbols to communicate this message.
Sample POD using 3 sentences

• Thesis: In *The Old Man and the Sea* Hemingway employs rhetorical devices to create an allegorical study of the human quest to understand the mysteries of humanity.

• POD: Hemingway employs contrast to bring attention to the anonymity of the human experience. He also manipulates symbols to magnify the injustice of an arbitrary world. Finally, there are allusions to Christ’s journey throughout the text to exemplify the old man’s struggle to endure life’s hardships.
The Body (One Paragraph)

The **topic sentence** = The Sub-Topic

- **Point A** (the first example to prove the subtopic)
- **Proof** (a direct quote to show this example in action)
- **Comment** (explains how the proof defends the example and subtopic)

- **Point B** (the second example to prove the subtopic)
- **Proof** (quote to show the second ex. In action)
- **Comment** (connects the proof to the sub-topic, and the subtopic, as a whole, to the thesis)
Remember Your Options

Do PPC as demonstrated in the last slide.

Use the integrated literary paragraph approach practiced throughout the unit.
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

All double spaced
Style Guide p. 4

Right margin or center:
• Title centered on pg. 1
• Your last name with page number in rt. Corner on every page
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!” (author’s last name, page #).
- **Parenthetical Citations**: match Works Cited Page, Author+Pg vs. Pg# alone vs. Shakespeare
- **Long quotes** are to be indented 1 inch without quotation marks – anything that exceeds three lines in length
- Use **square brackets** when you add information inside a quote
- Go to p.16 to learn the rules for using an ellipses
- 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