

### **POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN WRITING AN ANALYTICAL ESSAY**

1. Always include the name of the novel or play and the author's name in the first couple of sentences. Underline or *italicize* book titles.
2. The THESIS comes at the end of the introductory paragraph, not at the beginning.
3. Use the word NOVEL, not BOOK.
4. Write in the literary PRESENT TENSE, making the essay sound like the novel is happening right now.
5. ✓ = An editing mistake in that line
6. Do not use "I," "you," "we," "us."
7. Do not write a PLOT SUMMARY.
8. Avoid PASSIVE VOICE.
9. If you make a CLAIM, use evidence to prove it. Unsupported claim sentences help create a TELLING, very general essay.
10. Always use COMMENTARY after quotes. Never end an essay on a QUOTE.
11. No CONJECTURING. Instead, write about what IS, not what is NOT.
12. Do not use THAT when referring to people. Use WHO.  
EX: The girl WHO hit my car was sobbing.
13. Topic sentences cannot be FACTS. They must be IDEAS.
14. Do not use a PRONOUN for a person's name in the first sentence of a paragraph. EX: She was very rich—NO. Mrs. Astor was very rich—YES.
15. Revision does not mean CHANGING A COUPLE OF WORDS. Revision means seeing the whole essay and how it can be better organized and supported by ADDING, SUBTRACTING, REARRANGING, DELETING ideas and words.
16. Do NOT include all of the history of the world in your opening sentence. You were not there, nor do you know about all of time up to the present.

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