

Mrs. Hollingsworth
English

Tips for Writing a Good Analytical Paper
or
Things that Drive Me Crazy and Cause You to Get Bad Grades

1. **Always write in the literary present.** Do not switch back and forth between tenses. Do not write in the past tense. Always write in the literary present. For example, "Shakespeare writes Hamlet as a young man torn with indecision." As opposed to, "Shakespeare wrote Hamlet as a man who struggled with making choices."
2. **Always use the proper diction.** This is not a letter to your friend. Use word choice and structure that is indicative of both your knowledge on the topic and your understanding of your audience. Words to strike from your writing vocabulary: a lot, book, shows.
3. **Always use quotations.** For each point that you make you should provide textual evidence. Never simply review the action of a scene and move on.
4. **Provide analysis.** This is not a book report. I am not interested in the plot of the novel. If and when you provide your quotes make sure that you provide your thoughts and insights.
5. **DO NOT BE PERSONAL.** Under no circumstances in a paper should you write "I", "we", "the class", "us", "my" or any such possessive noun. Your paper needs to be objective.
6. **Answer the questions.** I love that you can wax philosophical about other aspects of the novel; however, if I did not ask for that, you will not receive credit. The question is there for a reason, don't ignore it.
7. **Think about what you are writing.** Do not simply write and turn your paper in. You need to revise, rethink, and reread.
8. **Be organized.** Do not simply slap some words down on the paper and think that it will suffice.
9. **USE TRANSITIONS!** There are grammatical reasons for paragraph breaks, not simply because you do not want to write about that particular topic any more.
10. **Be confident with what you write.** Think and know your subject. Convince me that you are right!