C:\Users\Bronwen\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\74R7XQYD\MC900440428[1].wmf*C:\Users\Bronwen\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\SAW6XRDS\MC900437797[2].wmf***Things to know when writing a literary analysis paper**

**1) Remember to be an ACE!** (or APE, or PEE)

**A ASSERTION**

(what is your point? ie. The author uses irony to demonstrate that fear can distort reality)

**C** **CITATION (Your proof)**

(quote or give specific proof from the texts; many students quote because their teacher told them to but they do not choose significant/relevant quotes and/or they then do not explain them)

**E** **EXPLANATION**

Explain the significance of that point. (ie. How does the character’s fear lead them to do things they otherwise would not do? How does the assertion relate to the whole piece?)

**2) Quoting**

**Short quotes** (less than 3 lines)

* Embedded right in the text using quotation marks
* Use square brackets for words that are changed or added
  + Ex. “[She] was such a great listener.”
* Use three ellipses for missing words
  + Ex. “The . . . best movie of the year!”
* Include the author’s last name and page/paragraph or line number after the citation
  + Ex. “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times” (Dickens 1).
  + On the provincial exam you use the paragraph number or line number.

**Long quotes** (more than 3 lines)

* Separated from text in block type (indented on both sides)
* Singe space, no quotation marks
* Include author’s last name and page/paragraph or line number – on the line after the last line of the quote and set off to the right side

**3) Integrating quotes into your writing**

Short quotes: remember **ACE**

E.g. Rachel is shy.

“When I open my mouth nothing comes out”

Mrs. Price places the sweater on her desk.





Rachel is shy. “When I open my mouth nothing comes out.”

d:\Documents and Settings\sd23user\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\E4GVVEOV\MC900434665[1].wmf **Assertion**: Rachel is clearly a shy character. **Citation:** When Mrs. Price places the dreaded red sweater on her desk claiming it’s hers, Rachel, in dismay, “open[s] [her] mouth [and] nothing comes out,” (para 52). **Explanation:** This introverted quality eventually creates an obstacle for Rachel and hampers her ability to convince the school she did not commit the vandalism.

**Using quotes properly in your writing will make all the difference. If you use quotes correctly it will show sophistication of thought. If you use quotes incorrectly it will detract from your writing. Learn the rules of quote integration and citation!**

**Remember**: all literary roads lead to theme…no matter what you are asked to discuss, a great way to conclude is relating it to the whole point of the piece! Don’t forget what you learned about thematic statements: use a subject and a verb. Be careful that all aspects of the piece support that theme. Don’t be too broad or too narrow.

**Test: if you can cover up the quotation marks and the sentence still reads smoothly, you have done it correctly. Try it!**

Examples:

By the end of the story, Janet ironically found comfort in “the safe, dark shelter of the storm,” (para 8).

The family's valued home is turned into a dungeon as they are forced to see “the trees and sky through bars,” (para 3).

**\*Important**: Always refer to title and author. Use the author’s full name at least once in an assignment. After that, use the last name only. Do not use the first name.

**4) Citing quotes and titles: following MLA format, using parenthetical referencing**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Poem** | “title” | ... for missing text  [for changed text] | / indicates separation of lines | line 42 or l. 42  in brackets |
| **Short story & article** | “title” | ... for missing text  [for changed text] | No need | para 42 or paragraph 42  in brackets |
| **Novel** | Title  *Title* | ... for missing text  [for changed text] | No need | page 42, p. 42 or 42  in brackets |