

Writing Tips

1. **Never use the Internet/AI** to help you write an essay. Use your own thinking.
2. Double-space all typed work.
3. Do not use common expressions, texting language or abbreviations.
4. Avoid such awkward phrasing such as “In this essay...” , “This essay will show...” , “This quote shows that...” or “In conclusion...”
5. **Do not use I and you(r) when writing about literature.**
6. Always write about literature using **present tense**.
7. **Avoid contractions** in formal writing.
8. Never begin an essay by restating the essay prompt. That’s boring.
9. Do not use numerals to begin a sentence. Spell the number.
10. Always underline or *italicize* book and play titles. Always put titles of poems, short stories and articles in “quotations.”
11. Use an author's full name initially in an essay, but only the last name thereafter.
12. **Always transition** into the text evidence, but avoid using the same transition too much.
13. **Avoid using the word thing(s).** There is usually a more specific word to use.
14. **Every day** is two words unless used as an adjective.
15. **Each other** should always be written as two words.
16. Do not skip lines between paragraphs. Indent to note the beginning of a paragraph.
17. Do not write “would of” or “could of”. It’s “would/could have.”
18. **Details! Details! Details!**