

Each instructor develops her or his own assignments. Your instructor and the assignment sheet s/he has provided are the two best sources for guidance as you work toward a final draft. The handouts/tutorials for the types of essays feature general guidelines to help you write solid essays, but they should be treated only as supplements to your instructor and the assignment sheet.

Elements

Allusion: An indirect reference, often to a person, event, statement, theme, or work;
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Plot: The arrangement and interrelation of events in a narrative work, chosen and designed to engage the reader's attention or to achieve a desired effect; typically involves but is not limited to elements such as rising action, climax, falling action, resolution

Point of view: The vantage point from which a work is written; first-person, third-person omniscient or limited, and second-person

Setting: Combination of place, time and environment that provides background for the characters and plot of a work; the specific setting of an individual scene may contrast or contribute to the overall setting of the work.

Style: The author's chosen style is produced by the message of material he/she communicates to the reader, along with how he/she chooses to present it. Style is traditionally divided into three categories: high (formal), middle (standard), and low (informal).

Symbolism: The author's recurring use of symbols; symbols are figures in which the image or concept represents more than itself, having both literal and figurative significance.

Syntax: The arrangement, ordering, grouping, and placement of words within a phrase, sentence or paragraph.

Theme: An overall idea that becomes apparent throughout a text; the statement(s), expressed or implied, that a text seems to be making about its subject.

Tone: Similar to atmosphere and mood; the attitude of the author toward the subject matter or audience; the general feeling created by a work at a given point.

Figures of Speech

Anaphora: The exact repetition of words or phrases at the beginning of successive lines

Example: *Martin Luther King used the words, "I have a dream..." eleven times in his famous speech.*

Metaphor/Simile: Metaphors associate two distinct things without using a connective word; Similes associate two distinct things by using *like* or *as*.

Example: *(Metaphor) John is a Lamb. // (Simile) John is like a lamb.*

Parallelism: Used to accentuate or emphasize ideas or images by using grammatically similar constructions

Example: *"... that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain... ; that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth... and that the government... shall not perish from the earth." (Abraham Lincoln)*