

Your name

Professor Stansell

ENG 101 Sec. ???

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A Creative Title (see last paragraph for ideas):

A Specific Subtitle (what you did; i.e. analysis, comparison, etc.)

☺ PURPOSE: The purpose of this template is to make sure your papers are formatted exactly the same as everyone else's. I am easily distracted by different formats and I have wasted hours of class and personal time fixing the format of student papers. This template is a simple solution that everyone can use. It is MLA format, and you will use it in all of your papers.

DETAILS OF FORMAT: This is not Times New Roman (TNR) 12. It's Cambria 11.5 (1" margins), which looks similar to TNR, but there are subtle differences that make it my preferred font for reading. It is double-spaced with 0 points of spacing before and after paragraph returns. It also has a .5" tab at the beginning of each paragraph.

INSTRUCTIONS: Download the MS Word document version of this template from the course webpage. Select all text after the "☺." Copy text from your document and hit Control + Alt + v or "paste special." Select "unformatted text." This will paste your text into the template. If you paste normally, you will import formatting from your source, which we DO NOT WANT.

NOTES ON MLA STYLE: Leave only one space after periods or other punctuation marks. Do not use bold or underlining. Use italics to indicate titles of longer works or to provide special emphasis. Put punctuation marks inside of quote marks.

NOTES ON MICROSOFT WORD: Be sure that your grammar and spell-checker is set to "grammar and style." This will find anything that doesn't sound formal. Turn on the contextual spelling checker. This will underline words that are spelled correctly, but used improperly.

ESSAY TEMPLATE:

The “Hook” Paragraph uses action verbs and descriptive adjectives to connect with the audience. From simplest to most complex, the “hook” types are: 1) background, 2) fact, 3) statement, 4) rhetorical question, 5) illustration, 6) quotation, and 7) narrative.

The Thesis paragraph contains your essay’s main claim, a statement of opinion about the “text” you are analyzing or “issue” you are discussing. Then preview your essay concept by concept and put in a context. The thesis should explain 1) when & where, 2) who did what, 3) how & why. If necessary, you can have a third paragraph for audience/ background/ context.

Description-Interpretation paragraph 1 contains the first set of evidence from the book in support of the thesis statement. The topic sentence states the organizing concept of the paragraph. Here are some categories of textual evidence: literary devices, arguments, claims and evidence, cause/effect, facts and figures, stories, comparisons, descriptions, definitions.

Contextualization-Evaluation paragraph 1 connects the first concept to the chosen context and says why the evidence is compelling. Here are some concepts that people seek: love, friendship, admiration, security, family, awareness, and independence. A context is an 1) audience, 2) time, 3) culture, 4) media, 5) person, 6) place, 7) event, or even just 8) yourself.

Description-Interpretation paragraph 2 contains the second set of categorized evidence supporting your claim. Movie types of evidence include plot action, special effects, interaction of characters, facial expressions, dialogue, costumes, changes in characters, props, sets, lighting, sounds, performance of work, who “wins” in the end, body language. To conceptualize it, say what the evidence means, in one word or phrase. It must be very different from the first point.

Contextualization-Evaluation paragraph 2 connects the concept from the examples to the chosen context and says why it is compelling. Concepts people fear include loneliness, deprivation, abandonment, being wrong, hatred, failure, weakness, or not knowing enough.

Description-Interpretation paragraph 3 contains the third set of evidence and its conceptual category. Often this concept is the most difficult to figure out, but the three concepts will follow an order. Visual types of evidence include color, layout, background, details, intersecting or leading lines, images, overlapping elements, cultural icons, personalities, blank space. Musical evidence can include melody, harmony, stress, tempo, duration, lyrics, etc.

Contextualization-Evaluation paragraph 3 connects the third concept to the chosen context and says why the evidence is compelling. In an argumentative essay, be sure to use ethos (character appeals), pathos (emotional appeals), and logos (logical appeals) in order to have a balanced and well-proportioned argument. If you need to write a longer essay, just repeat the last two steps with a fourth concept and set of evidence.

Discussion paragraph 1 is the place to bring in your outside experience, synthesize the three main points, and give not only a realistic understanding of the whole situation, but also your evaluation of it. Discussions focus on the concepts as they work together, are relevant in the minds of the audience, and operate in the context that you have chosen.

This is discussion paragraph 2. You let yourself go and put a lot of yourself here. Your voice should come through and be seen as an advocate for the context you have chosen. This is your time to say everything you think or feel about the topic, and you have license, if you've fairly treated your topic, to use your imagination to make a point.

The Conclusion works to bring you forward into a new reality based on the journey you've taken in this essay. It gives the audience a sense of accomplishment, without pretending to answer all the questions, and it allows you to leave a lasting impression. You must answer the question, "Why should I care about what you wrote?" Conclusions include 1) summary, 2) rephrase thesis, 3) refer to intro, 4) generalize, 5) call to action, 6) argue for change.

Sentences should vary length and structure. Paragraphs should be 6-8 sentences long.