

FINALIZING CHECKLIST FOR LITERARY ANALYSIS ESSAY

- Is the topic you have chosen to write about manageable for the length of the paper you are writing? Is it too narrow or too broad?
- Is your title engaging? Does it suggest the approach you are taking in your paper?
- Does your first paragraph introduce your topic, name the writer and the work, and end with your thesis statement? Will it get the reader's attention?
- Is your thesis clear? Does it state the central idea of your paper? Does it contain a theme?
- Is your paper organized in a way that your reader will be able to follow?
- Are your developmental paragraphs unified (everything in the paragraph relates to the topic of the paragraph) and coherent (everything in the paragraph is arranged in a logical order)?
- Have you used transitional words where necessary within each paragraph? Are there transitions linking all the paragraphs of your essay?
- Does your concluding paragraph provide a sense of closure? Do you restate your thesis and tie all of your main points together?
- Have you used literary terms correctly? Do you explain how they relate to your theme?
- Have you used brief summary, paraphrase, specific details, and direct quotations? Have you explained why you are using them and how they support your thesis?
- If you have used information from sources outside the actual work of literature (for example, books of criticism), have you documented this information properly?
- Have you proofread your final draft?
- Did you follow your teacher's guidelines for document design and include correct headers and margins?

Adapted from: <http://www.gmc.edu/students/arc/documents/Literary%20analysis.pdf>