

Writing Expectations

- Write everything in complete sentences organized into logical paragraphs. Even homework. You should think of your homework as writing practice. You will never get full credit for work written in fragments, phrases, or single words.
- When you write, base your content on your purpose. Analysis should be written in third person and tends to be logical (and less engaging, frankly).
- Always make a **CLAIM**, provide **EVIDENCE** to support it (quoted information) and **INTERPRET** the evidence (explain why it supports the claim/what is the effect of the choice).

Ex: The song “Hurt” seems to be straightforward in its message and purpose; however, depending on the tone in which the words are expressed to the audience, the message and purpose can change. Cash uses a tone of pain and sadness to convey to his readers that when close to death, you become introspective; your accomplishments seem fruitless and devoid of meaning: “...I remember everything...what have I become?” Cash is looking at himself in sickness and questioning whether fame and fortune is enough. Does fame and fortune decide what a successful life looks like? He is questioning whether fame and fortune is what he should have been working towards in his younger years before he could not even recognize his own reflection in the mirror. This impacts how the audience views Cash and themselves; questioning if someone as successful and famous can have regrets about their life, what about the average man. It makes the reader/listener question their own accomplishments and question whether choices they made before death were important.

- NEVER try to make your writing “sound smart” by using words and phrases you don’t know how to use or by using strange, confusing syntax.

If you want to elevate your sentence structure, do it by learning the different types of sentence structures (simple, compound, compound-complex) and by varying your structure in a grammatically correct way.

- Always, ALWAYS refer to an author by last name, not first.
(NO: Malcolm uses Bill Gates as an example...
YES: Gladwell uses Bill Gates as an example...)

- Do not use any color ink other than blue or black.
- You must use a pen.