

## Considerations when Writing Analyses:

- ✓ Titles must be underlined or *italicized* for longer works (novels, plays, films, etc.) and “in quotations” for shorter works (short stories, poetry, essays, etc.).
- ✓ The author’s full name should be used first; then, in subsequent references, the author’s last name can be used alone: **Arthur Miller** must have been truly furious with Joseph McCarthy’s personal witch hunt. **Miller’s** play doesn’t just point an accusatory finger; it levels an eager and envenomed sword at McCarthy’s neck and the necks of those similarly inclined.
- ✓ Write in the third person (avoid redundant first-person announcements and second person entirely): **Bad:** In my opinion, the story roots itself in Hemingway’s romantic mistakes. As you read it, you can see his awareness of his own fallibility as clearly as you can see the plot. **Good:** The story roots itself in Hemingway’s romantic mistakes. His awareness of his own fallibility is as clear and simple as the plot.
- ✓ Reference the literature in the present tense: Fitzgerald’s careful imagery and poetic language **transport** readers through mansions of opulence and valleys of ashes; but the destination **is** the coal-black hole of broken hopes and deflated dreams that **represent** Fitzgerald’s own America.
- ✓ Avoid absolutes and unsupported, egocentric, or ethnocentric interpretations. **Bad:** Good literature always leaves the reader with a smile. Literature that does not must be bad. **Good:** Some readers consider literature good if it leaves them with a smile. Literature that does not is esteemed as bad.
- ✓ Keep direct quotes from the literature to a minimum (no more than 10% of the **total length** of the paper); and, if using research or outside sources, be sure to **properly cite your references** both parenthetically and bibliographically in **MLA** style.
- ✓ Always back up opinion, inferences, or interpretation with **textual evidence**.