

Literary Analysis Checklist

1. Is the topic clear? Is it too narrow or too broad?
2. Is the title engaging? Does it suggest the direction of the paper?
3. Does the first paragraph introduce the topic, name the writer and the work, and end with a thesis statement? Will it get the reader's attention?
4. Is the thesis clear? Does it state the central idea of the paper and make a claim (state an opinion) that is supported in the body paragraphs?
5. Is the paper organized in a way that makes it easy to follow?
6. Are the 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)?
7. Do all of the body paragraphs support the thesis and further the argument?
8. Has the writer used transitional words where necessary within each paragraph? Are there transitions linking all the paragraphs of the essay and indicating the direction of the writer's thinking?
9. Have they used literary terms correctly?
10. Have they used a brief summary, paraphrase, specific details, and direct quotations as evidence to support their claims? Have they explained how these details support their central idea?
11. Does the concluding paragraph provide a sense of closure and tie together your ideas?
12. Have they carefully proofread their final draft for content, style, grammar, and mechanics? Can you see any mistakes that could be easily fixed?