

Thesis Paper Checklist

Basic Writing Checklist:

- ___ 1. Have you typed, double spaced, and remained in 12 pt. font?
- ___ 2. Have you eliminated as many of the “to be” verbs (is, are, was, were) as possible?
- ___ 3. Does each sentence contain a subject and a verb? Is each sentence complete? (Remember: who does what?)
- ___ 4. Do you stay in third person point of view? (no: I, we, our, us, you, me, my, etc.)
- ___ 5. Do you spell every word and name correctly?
- ___ 6. Do you remain in present tense unless directly addressing history?
- ___ 7. Do you end each sentence with appropriate punctuation?

Introduction:

- ___ 8. Do you begin with a broad, factual statement about your theme?
- ___ 9. Do you gradually narrow your focus to the literary work(s) (which is/are in the middle of the introduction)?
- ___ 10. Do you include the name(s) of the author(s) after introducing the literary work(s)?
- ___ 11. Do you conclude the introduction with your thesis statement (the final sentence of the paragraph)?

Supporting Paragraphs:

- ___ 12. Do you begin each paragraph with a transition?
- ___ 13. Do you begin each paragraph with a topic sentence to introduce one idea per supporting paragraph?
- ___ 14. Do you include a quotation correctly integrated into a sentence (quotation does not stand alone)?
- ___ 15. Do you correctly cite the quotation (with quotation marks, page numbers, and punctuation)?
- ___ 16. Do you fully explain your idea and quotation?
- ___ 17. Do you effectively conclude each paragraph with a sentence that ties up any loose ends (a concluding sentence)?

Conclusion:

- ___ 18. Do you begin with your thesis statement restated (reworded)?
- ___ 19. Do you follow the thesis statement with your main supporting ideas (the topics from each supporting paragraph) restated?
- ___ 20. Do you explain the importance of your thesis to the reader?
(Why should the reader care about your thesis idea?)
(How does your thesis improve the reader’s understanding of the material?)
(Answers the question, “So what?”)