

I. GENERAL PURPOSE/AUDIENCE

Writing about literature (fiction, non-fiction, drama, prose, poetry) explores, investigates, interprets, applies, and expands upon the literature, often examining connections between literature and other aspects of culture. People write about literature to understand their own responses to it, convince others of a position, explain or introduce new concepts, compare authors or eras, or connect to a culture or field. Audiences include scholars, professors, and peers.

II. TYPES OF WRITING

- Literature reviews
- Poetry explications
- Critical analysis
- Close readings
- Journal articles

III. TYPES OF EVIDENCE

- Primary sources (pieces of literature, letter by or to the author)
- Secondary sources (reviews, critiques, biographies, books and articles about the subject)

IV. WRITING CONVENTIONS

- Use third person, though first person is acceptable when making an argument (I will argue...).
- Avoid conversational or informal language.
- Use present tense when discussing literature.
- Use active voice.
- Support interpretations with textual evidence.

V. COMMON TERMS AND CONCEPTS

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| • Formalism | • Postcolonial | • Voice |
| • Structuralism | • Criticism | • Meter |
| • New Historicism | • Psychoanalytic | • Diction |
| • Marxist Criticism | • interpretation | • Plot |
| • Cultural Criticism | • Genre | • Climax |
| • Feminist/Gender | • Tone | |
| • Criticism | • Style | |

VI. CITATION STYLE

- Modern Language Association (MLA)
- Chicago Manual of Style (CMS)