

Death of a Salesman Assignment Menu Errors

We're learning and improving, but we still have some items that can be improved. FYI - This list is much shorter than the list given to you after *Pride and Prejudice*. We are improving! :)

- **Prove** your points/ ideas. Use specific **examples** and quotes from the work.
 - Include quotes from the work. **Quote** from the works, and then explain the meaning.
- One **quote** per paragraph. Too many quotes are confusing, awkward, and unneeded.
- Don't begin or end a paragraph with a quote.
- **Weave** the quotes into your sentence. Make the quotes work for you. *He vocalized that Linda was his "foundation" and his "support" in life.*
- Watch your **pronoun** references. It should be CLEAR which character you are writing about.
- Write about literature in the **present** tense.
- No 1st or 2nd person **pronouns** (quotes from literary works are exceptions)
- **Not only....but also** - When using this correlative conjunction, include both parts.
- Sentences that begin with **subordinate clauses** require periods: *after, although, as, because, before, even though, if, once, since, though, unless, until, when*
- The **pronoun who** is used with writing about people; the **pronoun that** is used to write about objects, ideas, etc.
- There are no **apostrophes** in dates. Apostrophes only show possession or ownership. Apostrophes do not make words or dates plural: *1940s, all Bs in math, 1920s, three Cs in high school*, etc.
- *Death of a Salesmen* is a **play**, not a novel. Do not write "in the novel *Death of a Salesmen*." It's a play or a work.
- **When and Where** -- *When* signals a particular time; *where* signals a particular place. "Several occasions in the play *where* Willy's love is shown." *Where* should be *when*. Literary works are a sequence of events in time, not places on a map.
- **Punctuation and Quotations** -- Punctuation marks usually go instead the quotation marks. *His father had the "wrong dream."* Occasionally the punctuation goes outside the quotation marks when asking a question. *Did Willy have the "wrong dreams"?*
- **Avoid blaming** The Woman or Ben for Willy's actions. Willy is responsible for his own actions. Word your sentences accordingly.
- **Commas and because** -- A because clause needs to be set off by a comma only when it begins a sentence.
- **Follow the prompt**. If the prompt reads "a character" then you can only write about one character. Read carefully.
- Follow all the rules in **the writing packet**. Use the packet to help you. In English classes, we write in complete sentences, we avoid boring words and phrases, we use specific words and descriptors, and we maintain a consistent verb tense. Rarely, will these rules be altered.
- Avoid dead words, contractions, abbreviations, slang, clichés, jargon, and any form of the word **YOU**. Ingrain this in your head. This rule will not disappear!
- Make items in a series **parallel**. This is parallel - *Charles experienced happiness, excitement, and sadness*. Correct this sentence- *Charles loved dancing, having a good time, and he really liked Jane*.
- **Focus on the work** and the characters, NOT the reader or author.
- One inch margins all the way around
- Do not include phrases in **parenthesis**. Parenthesis signal unnecessary phrases or words. If they are unnecessary, leave them out entirely!
- N2SSWTSW (No two sentences start with the same word – this rule applies within paragraphs.)

- Write four to seven paragraphs with three to seven sentences in each paragraph.
- Put at least eight words in each sentence. Vary your sentence length.
- Don't repeat the same boring words over and over again.
- Write your final draft in black or blue INK, double space, and use one side of plain white paper. Essays may be typed in 12 -point Times or Arial font, double spaced, and printed on one side of the paper. Use one inch margins.
- Avoid conversational tones. Formal writing reads as scholarly and intelligent. Essays are not casual chats with friends or text messages. Do not write the way you speak.
- Refer to your rubric and prompt often.

Avoid phrases like

- Linda hasn't a clue (*it's not an episode of Scooby Doo.*)
- in more ways than one
- rubbing his success in Willy's face all the time
- bound and determined
- live with the fact
- thought the world of him
- kind of in his own world
- never would have guessed
- follow in his footsteps
- be there for him
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