

1984 Assignment Menu errors 2011

The essay part was worth 40 points. It was this section that hurt many students' grades. Without using meaningful quotes effectively, you can't earn higher than a 30.

- **Prove** your points/ ideas. Use specific **examples** and quotes from the work.
 - Include quotes from the work. **Quote** from the work, then explain the meaning.
- At least one **quote** per paragraph, however, too many quotes are confusing, awkward, and unneeded.
- Don't begin or end a paragraph with a quote.
- Avoid plot summary. Do NOT retell the story to me. I read the book. Pick specific examples from the work that relate to your topic.
- Do not repeat the essay prompt, ever.
- 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)
- The **pronoun who** is used with writing about people; the **pronoun that** is used to write about objects, ideas, etc.
- Watch pronoun agreement. "*It is here a person has to pay for crimes they committed.*"
- Avoid phrases that begin "Sure, everyone wants...." or "Well, that's why O'Brien tortures Winston."
- Be definite. Don't include phrases like "could be," "might have been," "might form," "probably used," or the like. Be distinct in your points.
- Use apostrophes and capitalization correctly. The Party, The Book, Hate Week, and Two Minutes of Hate are proper nouns and should be capitalized.
- Generally, end punctuation goes inside the quotation marks. Winston participates in this chant because "it was impossible to do otherwise."
- There is usually not a comma before the word BECAUSE. It is not a coordinating conjunction.
- Avoid plot summary. It is a dementor's kiss to literary essays. Immediately start analyzing the work.
- Use transitions to bridge between words, thoughts, ideas, and paragraphs.
- Focus on your chosen topic. Other information is irrelevant.
- Maintain a formal tone.
- Never write "the author does this to make the story interesting." NEVER!!!! Find the literary reason.
- Don't use parenthesis. Parenthesis signal something unneeded.

Follow all the rules in the writing packet. Use the packet to help you.

- 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.
- Avoid dead words, contractions, abbreviations, slang, clichés, jargon, and any form of the word *YOU*.

- Put at least eight words in each sentence. Vary your sentence length.
- 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.
- Never use a fragment or a run on sentence in your essay. Sentences cannot start with the words *if, and, but, so, or, because*. This leads to fragments.
- 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.
- All numbers less than 100 should be spelled out.

General errors from assignment menu

- I apologize for taking so long to grade these. However, in that time those of you who didn't complete the assignment could have turned in the work.
- Choose one from each vertical column and one from each horizontal row.
- use ink (or I will deduct points)
- double space (or I will deduct points)
- Avoid directly addressing the reading in any formal writing. "I choose this quote because...."
- Avoid weak sentences. "This quote is important because..." "This quote is significant because...."
- Don't use *wont* or *won't* in formal writing. It's not a word.
- Refer to your rubric and prompt often.
- Punctuate *1984* correctly.
- Double space, turn in your rubric, use ink or type!
- Indent paragraphs
- maintain a formal tone

Clichés/ Colloquialisms or other phrases that signal weak writing

the same goes for
Sure, everyone wants....
Well, that's how it goes.
it sounds as if he
get the job done
without lifting a finger
anything he wants to do
lined up and down the street
in his eyes
it's one big unit
never a dull moment
lose their minds
for a second
when it comes to
in the long run
follow every rule to the T
safety is not on his list of most important things
get in touch with

it's all over for him
not a huge deal
even (even tells him, even gives him...)
perfectly fine
stand up for
time to break free
second guessed himself
there's a rhyme and reason
if anyone looks like a ... it's him (or her)
when it comes to ...
in the end it didn't matter
shed light on
see the light at end of tunnel
how far they are willing to go
too smart for his own good
most of the time
the fact that
in the end