

1. Establish **SPECIFIC**, defensible argument(s)

Need a thesis and **subordinate** points that:

A. are as **specific as possible** (vagaries don't make solid arguments)

B. are interesting, novel, or simply **meaningful** (have something to say)

C. are **defensible with text**

2. USE ACTUAL TEXT (QUOTES)!!!

- Paraphrasing, summaries, telling me what the text says (i.e. “in the part where...”) are **NOT** acceptable!

YOU MUST USE ACTUAL TEXT!

- If you don't use text, **you will fail**. This is 33% of your grade on these assignments. Without text, you cannot prove your ideas.

3. Explain how #2 (quotes) explains/supports #1 (thesis)

I will **purposefully** not understand where you are going with the points you make. It's not that I won't "get it," but I want you to explain yourself **fully**.

DO NOT RELY ON ME TO "UNDERSTAND"!!!

If questions can be asked that are unanswered in the essay—if you give me room to question you—you have not done the job completely. **FIX IT!**