

Formal ELA Essay - Tips for Success!

1. **Do not use contractions** (don't, won't, can't, it's). ALWAYS use the full words (do not, will not, cannot, it is).
2. **No hypotheticals.** Ex. "What would you do if you were on trial with this jury?!" This is informal. Instead: "Every person would prefer a fair trial with reasonable jury members who look at the case from all angles."
3. **Do not talk in first person** (I, me, myself). Ex. "I believe Juror 8 is a hero because of his efforts to go through the evidence." Always avoid using yourself as the speaker. Remove it from the sentence altogether. Ex. "Juror 8 is a hero because of his efforts to go through the evidence."
4. **Always follow formatting!** Look at the hand out Mrs. L. gave you. The Guide to MLA Writing will show you how to format your first page, your text citations, and your works cited. So handy!
5. **Use a graphic organizer!** If you plan your writing and plug your information into a graphic organizer, the organizing is essentially done for you! You need to add transition words and concluding sentences to your body paragraphs and you are done!

Transition Words:

First, Second, In addition, Specifically, In other words, On the other hand, However (ps. Use google - they have a ton of transition words to add between sentences!)

What should my body paragraphs look like?

Topic Sentence - this outlines one of your reasons that support your thesis statement.

Follow this with 3-4 sentences that explain your reason, offer support to your reason, use citations from the text.

Concluding Sentence - end your paragraph with a summary statement that relates to your Topic Sentence. (Hint: use transitions words: "In summary...", "As shown by the evidence...")

Introduction & Conclusion Paragraphs:

Fill in the graphic organizer and place your sentences straight into your paragraphs!