

# WRITING TIPS

## AP LEVEL WRITING

01

### **STRONG THESIS STATEMENT.**

Always include the writer/speaker's name and the title of the piece as well as a clear, confident, and concise overview.

02

### **STRONG TOPIC SENTENCES.**

Each of the topic sentences should build from the thesis. They should also be clear, confident, and concise indicators.

03

### **WELL-SELECTED QUOTATIONS.**

This can make or break the essay. Choose wisely. **ALWAYS INTRODUCE** a quotation. Always. Use in-text citations.

04

### **DEEP EXPLANATIONS.**

This should bridge together the topic sentence and the quotation. Spend **TIME** here. Dig **DEEP**. **Analyze** profusely.

05

### **STRONG CONCLUSION.**

Always include a strong conclusion that is insightful without being overly redundant. Practice that balance.

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06

### **Advanced Expository Structure?**

Topic sentence, elaboration, textual support, explanation, textual support, explanation, tie back to thesis.

07

### **MLA format?**

Is the intro. correct? Do I have a header? Is the title correct? Did I use in-text citations properly? Is there a Works Cited page? Are the citations correct?

08

### **Introduce quotations?**

Does the quotation include an introduction to the quotation? Is it present tense? Am I switching up lead-in phrasing?

09

### **Commas?**

Are there multiple clauses? Is there a subordinate and independent clause? Is there a conjunction adjoining two independent clauses?

10

### **Active voice?**

Could I find a direct object in every sentence if I had to do so? Are there too many prepositional phrases?

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11

### **Numbers?**

Are numbers one through nine consistently written out in the essay?

12

### **Quoted punctuation?**

Did I place the punctuation inside the quotation marks?

13

### **Block indent?**

If the selected quotation is more than four lines, did I use block indent?

14

### **Titles?**

If it is a shorter work, did I use quotation marks? If it is a longer work, did I utilize italics or underline?

15

### **Word Choice?**

Did I select the best word for that sentence? Could I amplify the vocabulary? Does the word accurately apply to the discussion at hand?

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16

### **Consistent verb tense?**

Is the verb tense consistent throughout the writing? Use present tense.

17

### **POV?**

Did I avoid all instances of first or second point-of-view in my formal essay?

18

### **Contractions?**

Did I eliminate contractions and completely write out words and phrases?

19

### **Variation?**

Do my sentence structures vary? Do I change up the starts of sentences? Do I avoid ending with prepositions?

20

### **Specified antecedent?**

Is the antecedent employed clearly representing what I want it to represent? Do I foresee any potential confusion?

21

### **Edits?**

Did I re-read the work to scan for typos?