

TAFT COLLEGE
ENGLISH 1600
WRITING PROMPT FOR FINAL PAPER: EDGAR ALLAN POE

TOPIC: Thoroughly explicate Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher."

CONTENT: Each of the topics below should be fully explained in its own section of your research paper:

Setting	Theme(s)	Structure
Allusions	Characters	Tone
Style (Dialogue, Figurative Language, Diction)		

Use and refer to the handouts from the introductory lecture on the short-story unit. Each section will give a clear identification of the element and will also give your reader response/interpretation about how Poe applies these elements in the short story. You must use quotes from the story to support the points and the interpretations you make.

FORMAT: **MLA FORMAT IS A REQUIREMENT!** Double spacing only between all lines of the document; 1" margins on all sides; Times New Roman in 12 font; four-line heading on the top of page one only and your last name/page number heading on the top of each page; and accurately-formatted Works Cited page. You must have **at least SIX citations** from reputable or professional databases or documents. A Word Count of 3,000-4,000 words for the ten-page text is the goal; the word count should not include the Works Cited page. (Each page should be 300-330 words.)

PROCESS: Writing is a process—moving from no topic to choosing a topic to organizing our thoughts to writing ideas on the topic to revising our writing and then to a final product. This research paper will be graded on the entire process-- rough drafts with corrections visible on the draft, peer edits, and final product. Each step will receive its own grade and the final product is counted as two grades.

RESOURCES: Professor Cross

I am available to meet in the classroom from 12:45-1:00 p.m. before each class.

I am also available to respond to questions or to provide commentary feedback on one of your rough drafts. For commentary feedback, you will need to send a Microsoft Word Attachment of your writing to my T.C. email: vcross@taftcollege.edu.

Taft College Library

1. Make an appointment with a T.C. tutor.
2. Ask one of the T.C. Library employees for assistance to access the T.C. databases and hard-copy resources on the library shelves.

N.B. (NOTE WELL): The attached course rubric will be applied to the final product of the research paper.

ESSAY / PAPER RUBRIC

Thesis / Controlling Idea --Presents a clear, engaging, well-developed thesis	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Content/Ideas/Support/Development --Displays originality of ideas --Writing is a unified whole --Clear topic sentences in each paragraph supported by specific evidence											
Structure / Organization --Organization is sequential and follows the assignment requirements --Paragraphs are linked with clear transitional sentences											
Grammar / Sentence Structure --Effective sentences with no fragments, comma-spliced sentences, or run-on sentences --Shows a variety of sentence styles and lengths											
Mechanics --Displays a freedom from punctuation, spelling, and capitalization errors											
Vocabulary / Use of Words --Displays exceptional vocabulary range --Shows accurate and effective word usage throughout the writing											
MLA Presentation --Accurate MLA format for headings, spacing, in-text citations and Works Cited Page --If a Works Cited page is required and missing, the score is automatically a zero.											
Peer Edit --Student writer had a rough draft and participated in a peer edit on the day scheduled.											
Revision Process --Student writer has at least one rough draft showing editing and proofreading corrections --Writing Prompt is on the bottom --Final Draft to be graded is on the top											
Word Count --A word count is on the last page of the text near the right-hand margin											
FINAL GRADE											