

Paper 1 Guidelines

In the next few weeks we will learn about atmosphere and how important it is in the horror genre. In order to achieve the appropriate mood, authors use many literary elements. Your first paper is a 3-page essay analyzing the *atmosphere* of one of the stories you have read so far. Choose one story and analyze the atmosphere. Select **THREE** elements that the author uses to evoke fear in the reader.

Select one:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| The Tell-Tale Heart | Knocking |
| The Road Virus Heads North | Dracula's Guest |
| The Yellow Wallpaper | Good Friday |
| The Boarded Window | Hemophage |
| The Grave | |

In your Prewriting phase analyze how the author creates the atmosphere. Be sure to assess **ALL** elements that contribute to atmosphere (remember it is **NOT** the weather—it is many elements converged together to create the mood). Consider the POV, diction, setting, sentence structure, dialogue, description, imagery, etc. Check out the Literary Terms file for some other ideas. You are selecting the *writerly* ways that the author made you feel fear. Suspense will **NOT** be one of your elements. I've seen this in many essays. Suspense is an outcome not a means. Ask yourself questions. For example, does the POV in TTH help to create the fear? Do the short, choppy sentences help to create that feeling of frenzy? Once you have done your prewriting, select **three** that you can effectively write about. As you make your way to the Draft, construct a working thesis that will guide you. This thesis should have:

- Author's full name
- Story title in quotation marks
- The three elements you will analyze

Your draft should have a dedicated paragraph to each element. Be sure you check out the Template file on how to write academic paragraphs in your Paper 1 Organizer. Use topic sentences, your own thoughts on how the element creates fear, include a quote to support your claim, then end the paragraph with more of your own thinking. Remember, you do need to use text quotes, but they should be used judiciously just to support your assertions. This is your essay so the quotes should **NOT** overpower your own writing.

If it's been a long time since you last wrote an academic essay, here are some tips. In essence, you are writing a five-paragraph essay:

- An introductory paragraph that ends with a thesis statement that **PREDICTS, CONTROLS, and OBLIGATES** (check out file in Writing Files). Intros are short and to the point. Start with a broad statement about

- the horror genre, then introduce the author and story, then end with the thesis statement.
- Three body paragraphs (ONE for each of the literary elements that make up the fearful atmosphere that you mention in your thesis). Be sure to use transitions to get us from one paragraph to the next, topic sentences, and quotes.
 - A concluding paragraph summing up your paper (do NOT summarize the story).

Traditionally, academic essays require citations and a Works Cited page. I am not requiring this. We are all using the same sources and you are only analyzing one. You are required to include quotes (at least one per paragraph to illustrate each literary element) and these require attribution (giving credit where due), but I am asking for it in its simplest form. Simply lead in to the quote with the author's last name. No footnotes or parenthetical citations. For example:

King writes, "He was fascinated by it, and he felt he'd had the good luck to find something which might be very special, but fright? No."

One of the main pitfalls when writing about literature is the summary rut. DO NOT retell the story. A dead giveaway is any statement like "This story is about..." I've read the story countless times—DO NOT tell me what happened again. Stick to the elements and forget about plot. You can assume for the most part that your audience has read the story. If you are compelled to discuss some element of WHAT happened, be sure it is in the framework of WHY.

I expect that you will write complete, coherent sentences paying special attention to your grammar and spelling. Just because the paper is short and informal does not mean you can pass in sloppy work.

In terms of logistics:

- Put your name, course, section, and date in the top left.
- Use MS Word. If you do not have it, you must SAVE your document as a Rich Text Format (.rtf). If you do not know how to do this, check out the file in the Resources module on your Home Page for some instructions. A recurring issue is that your paper comes through with a strange extension on the end of the file name. It should be **.doc** or **.docx** or **.rtf**—anything else and I CANNOT OPEN IT. If it says **.htm** then go back to your file and try again. If it says **.lnk** that means that your Word file was still open when you tried to attach it. Always close your files before attempting to attach.
- 3 pages, 1 inch margins all around
- 12 point Times New Roman
- Double spaced. PLEASE check out the file in the Resources section on your Homepage. Many think they are double-spacing when they are not and this poses many problems for electronic submissions. Take a quick peek to ensure that you are performing this function correctly.

- Standard essay formatting—indented first line paragraphs, no extra space between.
 - Attach your Word file in the **Assignment Materials: Submission section of the Paper 1 Assignment**. The file appears after you have attached it so double check before you hit the Submit button. **DO NOT PASTE** the essay into the comments box. Let me know if you have trouble.
 - Include on the first page—Name, Title, Course and Section number
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RECAP

- Select one of the first 9 stories.
- Analyze **THREE** literary elements that create the fearful atmosphere.
- Write out the elements in paragraph form expanding briefly and support with text quotes.
- **DO NOT** include any outside sources.
- Three pages typed, double spaced.
- Submit as an **ATTACHMENT** using the Paper 1 Assignment feature.
- Due: June 12, 2016
- Maximum score: 100

The paper is due at the end of Week 4, June 12. Late papers will only be accepted if you notify me beforehand and know that your grade will go down with each passing day that it is late. I will only accept them up to 5 days late, which means **ABSOLUTELY** no later than June 17. Check out the Rubric for the point deductions for tardiness.

There is a grading rubric attached to this paper in the Assignment section. Please read this before you write your paper then review it before you submit. I will alert you when I have received your paper so that you know I have it. **I will always send a confirmation to your course email so if you do not receive one within 24 hours of submitting your paper, contact me**—too many items disappear into cyber space.

Below are some samples to help. The first is an introductory paragraph. Your introduction should be short. Start by making some broad statements about the genre, atmosphere or whatnot then narrow down to the specifics of what you will do. Avoid introducing other stories or movies or broad philosophical statements. Your thesis should be the last sentence and should include the title of the story in quotation marks, the author's full name, and the three devices you will analyze and expand upon in the body of the paper. Once you have your thesis, organizationally you will dedicate one body paragraph to each element in the same order that your thesis introduced them. The second sample below is the third body paragraph (you'll see that the thesis puts POV third so the first body paragraph will be about irony, the second about symbol and the third about POV). Use a transition sentence to guide your reader to your next thought. Write

about the element. Then give a quote to support your observations. Be sure to lead in with the author's last name to give attribution. Then explain how this quote works to instill fear.

Sample Opening Paragraph with Thesis (Bolded text is for emphasis here only. Do not bold your thesis in your academic paper.)

In the world of literature, horror stories not only entertain but also frighten. The best are fraught with an atmosphere that creates visceral reactions such as sweaty palms, increased heart rate, and goose bumps at the nape of the neck. Authors deliberately choose elements that will deem their stories crème de la crème. The ability to cause utter fear with the written word is something to admire and one such author who doesn't disappoint with her execution is Shirley Jackson. **In her short story "The Lottery," Shirley Jackson sets a fearful mood by using an ironic twist on the concept of a lottery, a symbolic black box to illustrate death and the emotionally-devoid third person objective point of view.**

Sample Final Body Paragraph

Finally, Jackson's use of a third person objective point of view effectively sets the clinical tone needed to achieve a frightening atmosphere. Third person narration is advantageous in giving a story an air of legitimacy—readers have no grounds to dismiss the event as dream or hallucination because an unknown narrator relates the story validating it. With the added element of objectivity, all emotion is removed thereby giving the tale a detached feel. The mere reporting of the horrific event of stoning Tessie Hutchinson to death gives readers the power to react on their own accord without characters' interpretations of the event. This lack of emotion in the narration of the story is evocative of interviews with serial killers who often display sociopathic tendencies. Sociopaths are devoid of emotion and empathy and kill without remorse. Having this same tone in a horror story makes the story all the more appalling. Having an entire town commit an atrocious act of stoning attributing it to sacrificing life to the gods to have a prosperous crop conjures utter fear. Jackson relates the story of the annual stoning as if it were a normal, logical ritual. As readers approach the culmination of the lottery—the identification of the winner and his/her prize, a dreadful tone fills the page with matter-of-fact statements from Jackson like, "Delacroix selected a stone so large she had to pick it up with both hands..." and "And someone gave little Davy Hutchinson a few pebbles." The apathy conveyed in two statements in the last two paragraphs puts the story into the realm of sheer terror when Jackson writes: "A stone hit her on the side of the head" and "...and then they were upon her." Up until this point, the story feels innocuous enough and readers are as eager as the townspeople to see who has won. Tessie learns she is the winner and Jackson gives her reaction in dialogue with her screaming about the fairness of the event. So readers begin to understand that this is not a lottery where one wishes to be the winner and expect that this would come

through more in how the narrator tells the story. Knowing that the prize is death, readers become appalled at the laissez faire attitude of the narrator relating Tessie's family and friends hurling stones to kill her. Readers can picture her own young son being handed some rocks to throw at his own mother. Ending the story with a simple statement of the entire town rushing at one of their own sends shivers down readers' spines. Jackson consciously keeps the narrator at an extreme distance removing any intimacy and relating a stoning death in a dispassionate voice, thus putting readers into a state of unease.