

A CHECKLIST FOR LITERATURE PAPERS*

- Does the writer use examples from the text to convincingly support his or her interpretation or analysis?
- Has the writer avoided giving a simple plot summary?
- Are parts of a work clearly and accurately indicated? Refer to parts specifically: ex. “the scene in which...” or “at the end of Chapter Three.”
- Does the writer use present tense when describing events in a work of literature, as is the convention?
- Are the titles properly punctuated or underlined? Titles of short stories, essays, and most poems appear in quotation marks; titles of books, plays, epics, or other long poems are underlined or italicized.
- Has the writer referred to the author properly, using the full name initially and the last name in subsequent references?
- Is quoted material properly punctuated, indented (if longer than four typed lines of prose or three lines of verse), and documented according to the format specified by the teacher?

* Information taken from Ryan, Leigh. *The Bedford Guide for Writing Tutors*, 3rd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2002.