

# How to Write a Literary Essay

When writing an essay with evidence to support a statement you make about a book, poem, or other text, follow the format below for each body paragraph:

<p>P</p>	<p><b>Point</b> – This is your topic sentence. You must always have one sentence in which you clearly explain what you will prove or say. Use the <b>§VE</b> formula – <b>Subject, Verb, and Effect</b>.</p>
<p>E</p>	<p><b>Evidence</b> – Provide a passage from your text to support whatever your opinion is. You must always properly quote it using <b>MLA</b> format and have a signal phrase to introduce the passage.</p>
<p>E</p>	<p><b>Explain</b> – This part is crucial. You cannot have a quotation that does not explain the passage. This explanation should be 2-3 sentences in which you explain the specific language, thoughts, or ideas in your paper.</p>
<p>S</p>	<p><b>Significance</b> – This is the “so what?” question. Why does what you just wrote about matter. How does your opinion impact the thoughts on the text as a whole? What is the value of what you are saying?</p>

