

The Golden Rules of Writing Responses to Literature



THE DO LIST:

- ☺ **DO identify the title, author, and genre in your introduction.**

The search for identity is an important theme in Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett's play The Diary of Anne Frank.

- ☺ **DO underline or *italicize* the title of the text.**

(See example above.)



- ☺ **DO use the present tense.**

*At this point in the drama, Peter **is** annoyed whenever Anne **tries** to talk to him.*

- ☺ **DO use academic language.**

Note: refer to the “dead words” list for examples of good academic word choices.



THE DON'T LIST:

- ☹ **DON'T use the 1st person pronoun.** (“I think”; “I believe”; “It seems to me”)
- ☹ **DON'T use contractions.** (aren't; couldn't; isn't)
- ☹ **DON'T use slang** (“Anne was an awesome writer with tons of talent.”) **or clichés.** (easy as pie; too close for comfort; pretty as a picture)

Note: see the “dead words” list for alternative word choices

- ☹ **DON'T use abbreviations.** (w/o; B4; etc.; &c; LOL; b/c)