

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Miss Skirtich

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English 10: British Literature

### Thesis Paper Guidelines

*When writing your thesis papers, keep a few things in mind to bring your writing from good to great.*

- a. **Never use contractions.** When you write formally, avoid all contractions that appear as slang in writing.  
Example: Instead of "shouldn't" write out "should not"
  
- b. **Only use 3<sup>rd</sup> person voice when speaking.** This means to never use 1<sup>st</sup> person or 2<sup>nd</sup> person POV. That means no **I, you, we, us**. Use **he, she, it, they, the reader** instead.  
Example: Instead of "**We** learn about Claudius's guilt in the play" say "**The reader** learns about Claudius's guilt."
  
- c. **Limit your use of TO BE verbs.** These verbs are helping verbs that attach themselves to other active verbs and water down the meaning of your sentences. Make your verbs more active and help to illustrate your point by eliminating these pesky words.  
**Caution:** NEVER change words inside of quotes. As soon as you do that, it's no longer a quote.  
Ex: Instead of saying, "Hamlet and Ophelia **are fighting** throughout the play" say instead, "Hamlet and Ophelia **fight** throughout the play."

Use only **10** of them in your paper to make your writing awesome!

<b>Am</b>	<b>Is</b>	<b>Are</b>	<b>Was</b>	<b>Were</b>
<b>Be</b>	<b>Being</b>	<b>Been</b>	<b>Have</b>	<b>Has</b>
<b>Had</b>	<b>Could</b>	<b>Would</b>	<b>Should</b>	<b>May</b>
<b>Might</b>	<b>Must</b>	<b>Do</b>	<b>Does</b>	<b>Did</b>
	<b>Will</b>	<b>Shall</b>	<b>Can</b>	

- d. **Use 12pt. Times New Roman font, 1" margins throughout the entire document, double space the body of your paper (even the MLA heading; it's at the topic of this page!).**
  
- e. **When talking about characters, always use PRESENT TENSE instead of past tense. Since characters live on forever in books, we refer to them in present, even if they die in the text.**  
**Example:** When Hamlet stabs Polonius when he is in Gertrude's room, he **kills** Polonius.

The entire thesis paper is worth 50 points. Make each point count and follow the guidelines here on this sheet as well as the items on the Peer Editing Checklist to make an outstanding paper. Good luck!