I. GENERAL PURPOSE/AUDIENCE
Writing about literature (fiction, non-fiction, drama, prose, poetry) explores, investigates, interprets, applies, and expands upon the literature, often examining connections between literature and other aspects of culture. People write about literature to understand their own responses to it, convince others of a position, explain or introduce new concepts, compare authors or eras, or connect to a culture or field. Audiences include scholars, professors, and peers.

II. TYPES OF WRITING
- Literature reviews
- Poetry explications
- Critical analysis
- Close readings
- Journal articles

III. TYPES OF EVIDENCE
- Primary sources (pieces of literature, letter by or to the author)
- Secondary sources (reviews, critiques, biographies, books and articles about the subject)

IV. WRITING CONVENTIONS
- Use third person, though first person is acceptable when making an argument (I will argue…).
- Avoid conversational or informal language.
- Use present tense when discussing literature.
- Use active voice.
- Support interpretations with textual evidence.

V. COMMON TERMS AND CONCEPTS
- Formalism
- Structuralism
- New Historicism
- Marxist Criticism
- Cultural Criticism
- Feminist/Gender Criticism
- Postcolonial Criticism
- Psychoanalytic interpretation
- Genre
- Tone
- Style
- Voice
- Meter
- Diction
- Plot
- Climax

VI. CITATION STYLE
- Modern Language Association (MLA)
- Chicago Manual of Style (CMS)