

RATIOCINATION

FOR EXPOSITORY WRITING

Ratiocinate: *"To reason methodically and logically"*

Directions:

- ☐ Underline all sentences, alternating two colors.
 - This shows sentence length.
 - Check for fragments and run-ons.
 - If you have lots of short, choppy sentences, combine to make compound, complex, or compound/complex.
- ☐ Put a box around all personal pronouns in your paper, i.e. I, you, your, me, mine, we, us. Eliminate.
- ☐ Circle all contractions. (can't, don't, won't, etc...) Eliminate.
- ☐ Read through looking specifically for verb tense. All references to literature should be in present tense.
- ☐ Highlight in Green your Thesis Claim. Is the central idea of your paper clear? Does it identify the purpose of your paper? Does it speak to your argument? Is your position clearly identified? Remember: Provable, Debatable, Focused.
- ☐ Put a star by the first sentence in your essay. Does it reference the novel in any way? If so, include a general interest opener BEFORE introducing the novel.
- ☐ Highlight in Orange all citations.
 - Make sure the citation is formatted properly (Krake 14). This includes punctuation is on the outside. If you have already introduced the text, a simple page number can suffice as your citation (42).
 - There should be *at least* one citation per supporting paragraph. If there is not, use more examples and evidence to support your claim. This is a good opportunity for you to make sure you are incorporating developed analysis and not just slapping in quotations haphazardly.
- ☐ Put a Blue bracket around your conclusion paragraph. Is there a universal "so what"? in your conclusion? Remember, why should we care about this issue? Don't forget to connect the novel and the issue to a universal impact. What are the implications or lessons this piece of fiction has for the real world?
- ☐ Check MLA Formatting.
 - 1 inch margin
 - Entire paper 12 point traditional font (including title) and double spaced
 - First Page header, and Every Page Header (Lastname pg#)

Final Submission:

- ☐ Make revisions and submit final revised draft to classroom.google.com
- ☐ Bring your printed/highlighted draft with corrections to class Block Two for a grade