The palm at the end of the mind, Beyond the last thought, rises In the bronze distance.

A gold-feathered bird Sings in the palm, without human meaning, Without human feeling, a foreign song.

You know then that it is not the reason That makes us happy or unhappy. The bird sings. Its feathers shine.

The palm stands on the edge of space. The wind moves slowly in the branches. The bird’s fire-fangled feathers dangle down.

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LIT DETECTIVE TAKES ON UNIMAGINABLE CASE

“Writing an analytical paper is no time to settle for the ordinary. And Wallace Stevens is most definitely not the ordinary.”

LATHROP ATTEMPTS TO ANALYZE WALLACE STEVENS

For his portfolio, Lathrop decided to present his two other analytical works: “The Lion and Clock” and “Indeterminate Temperature.”

Wallace Stevens’s “Of Mere Being”
Writing an effective essay can be challenging to anyone. It takes hard work, practice, intelligence, and time. My knowledge on how to write an essay has grown extensively due to my English 1102 class. Based on the information I have learned, the things I have done, and the feedback I have received, I have developed five key steps one can follow to foster the creation of an intriguing and effective essay.

First of all, when writing an essay, it is very important to find a subject to write about that you find interesting. This is the beauty of analytical writing, because the writer is often permitted to analyze any aspect of a story or poem they would like. Thus, it is very important to select something from the text that intrigues you, because this will help foster your creativity.

The second step (and my personal favorite) is what I call “Taking a Chance.” When taking a chance, you write about something that your class has yet to talk about or discuss, or you write about something that you find unusual and peculiar. If you have a particular viewpoint on something but it is not shared amongst your peers, write about that, because that’s what will catch your reader’s attention and differentiate your writing and ideas from the rest. When analyzing a piece of literature, become that detective and focus on something very small. It will lead to more ideas and a more interesting paper.

Third, focus on maintaining cohesion throughout your entire essay. This is a challenge for me, and it is something I am working hard to improve on. Writing a cohesive essay makes your reader’s life a lot easier, and allows them to follow your thoughts and ideas at a higher level of understanding.

The fourth step is the boring stuff, but nonetheless, it must be done. Grammar, spelling, references, and citations must all be correct to achieve a high level of writing. This stuff is critical for establishing your ethos, or in other words, the trust and credibility your reader gives you. If I was consistently misspelling words in this article, would you find me credible?

Finally, the last step is what I call “delivering the punch.” In this step, you interact your ideas and interpretations with the structure of your writing. Do not go out swinging for a home run on your first at bat; settle down, and save your best ideas for later on in the essay. Use your other ideas to build up your analysis and ultimately lead to your most important idea. This will keep your reader interested and will help them see your analysis, especially if your ideas leading up to your big one are good. It’s like watching a movie that just keeps getting better.

Now, these steps are certainly not “necessary” to writing an effective analytical essay, nor are they the only way to do so. However, I do believe that for me, and probably for you as well, these steps encourage one to distinguish their writing and ideas from their peers.'