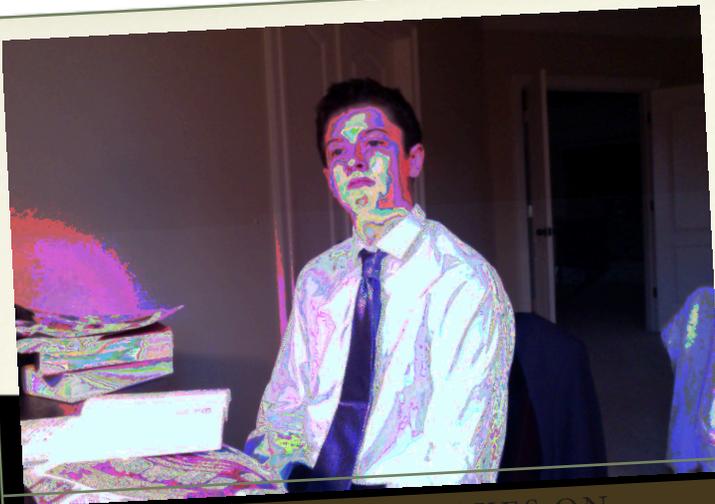


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THE ENGLISH MUFFIN

Your number one source for literary newsLIT DETECTIVE TAKES ON
UNIMAGINABLE CASE

The World of Analysis

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

Wallace Stevens's "Of Mere Being"



*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.*

Wallace Stevens Photo Credit:
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/5/56/Wallace_Stevens.jpg

LATHROP ATTEMPTS TO ANALYZE WALLACE STEVENS

Fit for the risky investigator, Detective Lathrop analyzes Wallace Stevens infamous “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird.” The poem’s unconventional structure and unclear meaning is what drew Lathrop’s attention towards the work. When interviewed, Lathrop stated “Writing an analytical paper is no time to settle for the ordinary. And Wallace Stevens is most definitely not the ordinary.” When asked how he developed his interpretations for the poem, Lathrop responded, “In addition to the other hours of research, I once spent four hours on a Sunday at a desk on the highest floor in the library. Above the desk, a window overlooks my entire university’s campus. I knew my decision to analyze Stevens was the right one when I saw a black bird fly across a

building in the distance.” The detective used his analysis of “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird” along with another one of Steven’s poems, “Of Mere Being,” as the subject of his second English paper. Throughout his research and writing his paper, Lathrop reached the idea that Stevens attempts to symbolize the mind and human emotion through the image of a bird.

The detective’s analytical brainstorming he completed in the library is pictured in the right column of page 2. He apologizes for the illegible parts.



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

Lathrop's Advice on Writing an Effective Essay

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'.



A copy of Lathrop's original interpretations of each stanza of "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird"

