

**First and Last Name**

**Class Title**

**Class Period**

**Mrs. Boylan**

**Title of Essay**

For your essays in theatre, make sure that all of your outside sources are correctly cited (using **footnotes**) **using APA format**. Please **cite all quotes and paraphrasing** so you do not get accidentally accused of plagiarism. Your essay can be written in first person, just please remember to **capitalize all of your “I’s.”** **In your first paragraph, you need to make sure you have your thesis statement clearly stated. Your thesis statement must include a statement or a question that you are going to answer and/or prove by the end of your essay. Your thesis statement must also include how you are going to go about answering your question or statement.** Here are some examples: (1) Wilder created the story of “Our Town” to show an accurate portrayal of small town life in America in the early 1900s. Wilder does this by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. I will prove this by providing examples from the play as well as analyzing the plot and characters to show the accurate portrayal of small town life. (2) In “A Doll’s House,” Ibsen never intended to make this a feminist play, however many people believe it is one. By using various examples from the play, by analyzing the characters and themes of the play, I will prove that Ibsen never meant to write a feminist play. **Your introduction paragraph should be the only paragraph where you include the summary of the play** (you do not need to give one - but if you do, this is the only paragraph where that is allowed).

Please remember that **when using a title, it needs to be in italics**. For example, when talking about *A Doll's House* or *Our Town*, make sure they are in italics each time you mention it in your essay. It's a title of a written work, therefore it must be in italics. When using quotes there are two ways to use them correctly in your essay. The first is when you use a quote that is only a sentence or two long. **Example of a direct quote** from the play, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (notice the title is in italic again), Eunice says "It's sort of messed up right now, but when its clean it's real sweet."<sup>1</sup> ←- **PLEASE NOTICE THE FOOTNOTE - it gets added at the end of the quote**). When you are using a quote that is much longer than one or two sentences, you need to indent the quote. For example, let's say I was talking about a character, like Nora, who was being called names to belittle her. If I wanted to go into details about the meaning of what this character was being called, and the direct quote is more than three sentences, I will indent it and the spacing should be single spaced:

"The entire plant is toxic (including the roots and seeds). Mortality is rare, but case reports do exist. Most plant exposures occur in children younger than six years and are usually unintentional and without associated significant toxicity. More serious toxicity occurs with intentional ingestion by adolescents and adults. Early symptoms of ingestion include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, wild hallucinations, delirium, and severe headache. Depending on the severity of the toxicosis, the victim may later suffer irregular and slow pulse, tremors, various cerebral disturbances, especially of a visual nature (unusual colour visions (see xanthopsia) with objects appearing yellowish to green, and blue halos around lights), convulsions, and deadly disturbances of the heart."<sup>2</sup>

**You only do this if you are ever using a large quote.** But make sure that you always use a footnote at the end of your last sentence that you are quoting. It is not recommended to use large quotes, but I will accept them. I rather you use smaller quotes where you and analyze piece by piece.

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<sup>1</sup> Williams, T. (2009). *A Streetcar Named Desire*. London: Penguin.

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia. (2020, August 27). *Digitalis*. Retrieved September 02, 2020, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digitalis>

Now remember that when you are **paraphrasing** something, you are putting **an idea (THAT IS NOT YOURS) and writing it in your own words**. So for example, **if you use anything from one of my lectures**, you see something that you would like to comment on or it was something you didn't know before reading it, **cite the lecture**. For example, let's say I was writing about Wilder's play, *Our Town* (see - italics are used because its a title), and I had read these two phrases in the lecture ("Even though Wilder focuses on a primarily Christian—and specifically Protestant—town, in the final act he leaves the question of religion up in the air." and "In Act III, though Mrs. Gibbs tells Emily to stay and prepare for "what's ahead" rather than return to the world of the living, Wilder does not clarify where the afterlife will lead.") and I wanted to paraphrase these two phrases, I would write the following...Throughout this essay I have been pointing out several examples of why Wilder did not want to make Act III about a specific religion and their beliefs. Even though Wilder paints us this beautiful picture of a small Christain, specifically Protestant town, he never clarifies what happens after you die. He does not say that Emily will go to heaven, he leaves it up for the reader to decide.<sup>3</sup> ← **(Notice that at the end of my paraphrasing I used a footnote to cite where I was getting my ideas from.)** Just remember that if you did not have the original idea, if you read something from somewhere, you must cite it. You wouldn't want someone else getting credit for your ideas now would you? I also would hate to see any of your get in trouble for plagiarizing. Trust me, just don't do it! You will get in trouble. I can tell when something is not from you.

Now remember guys, it is important that you **proofread your work before submitting it**. I promise you that this will help you out a lot. **Read your essay out loud to yourself, or have**

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<sup>3</sup> Boylan, A. (2020, August). PowerPoint Lectures. Retrieved September 02, 2020, from <https://pshscodintrototheatre.weebly.com/powerpoint-lectures.html>

**a friend look over it for you.** If you would like Mrs. Boylan to read it, then you will need to send her an email at least two days before its due for feedback. The earlier the better. For the past few years, students before you have received really low grades on their essays not because of the content, but because of their countless spelling and grammar mistakes. **Use spell check,** another human, anything, just don't let spelling errors and improper grammar bring your grade down.

Please do not stress out over these essays being five pages long - it's really not that bad. I barely explained how to write a paper for this class and I'm already at the top of page four. Just **remember to analyze the play from your point of view. There is no right or wrong answer because these essays are simply your opinion on the play.** If you have any questions please contact me! I can't wait to read all of your essays or watch you guys figure out any extra credit you can!