

“The Cask of Amontillado”: Short Story Analysis Paper (Pre-IB 9)

Assignment: Write a five paragraph short story analysis paper. Follow the instructions carefully. You will be given the thesis statement for this assignment. Each paragraph of the paper should focus on one aspect of the story that adds to its mood. Each body paragraph should have a topic sentence and a limiting idea. The rest of the paragraph should support the topic sentences using quotations from the story. You must also analyze the quotations. Do not summarize the story in your body paragraphs.

Grading: Your paper will be graded based on the rubric that has been given to you. Make sure you do everything in the list below.

1. Type your paper.
2. Double space the paper.
3. Use Times New Roman, 12-point font.
4. Use a proper heading.
5. Include 1-inch margins.
6. Do not use first person and second person pronouns (I, me, my, you, your, etc.).
7. Your paper must have a title that explains the point of your paper. Your paper title is not “The Cask of Amontillado.”
8. Your paper must contain a Work Cited list.
9. You must place the page number after the quotation. See example below.

→Introduction: When writing an introduction, follow **ANT**.

Attention getter

1. rhetorical question
2. relevant quote from an outside source
3. relevant quote from the story
4. fact or statistic
5. description of initial response to the work
6. shocking or amusing generalization

Necessary information:

1. author’s name – Edgar Allan Poe
2. title of story – “Cask of Amontillado”
3. brief plot summary – Simply remind your readers what happened in the story. Write about the major plot points of the story that are relevant to your analysis. Do not restate the entire story!

Thesis:

Your thesis should include a topic and limiting ideas. It must never be a question. It will be the last sentence of the introduction paragraph.

Your thesis statement for this paper is the following sentence:

Through his use of first person point of view, characterization, and setting, Poe creates a mood of mounting horror in “The Cask of Amontillado.”

→Body

Body paragraphs should follow **TOQA**.

Body paragraph 2:

Topic sentence: A topic sentence has a topic and a limiting idea, or a focus. Your topic will be the mood, and the limiting idea of each paragraph will be either point of view, characterization, or setting.

Opinion: Before you include a quotation that supports your topic sentence, you need to introduce the opinion it supports. Your paper cannot simply string together quotations. *You* make the paper and give the ideas life by explaining *your* opinions and impressions. Your quotations only bolster *your* argument.

Quotation: Provide a quotation that supports the topic sentence and your opinion. If the quotation came from dialogue, you must state who said it. This is important for the reader's understanding of context.

Example: When Montresor walks Fortunato through the catacombs, he tells Fortunato, “. . .” (9).

Analysis: After the quotation, spend about 2 sentences discussing how the quote relates to your topic and limiting idea.

Transition: Use a sentence or half a sentence to transition into a second opinion/quotation for support.

Example: Another time the reader benefits from the first person point of view is when Montresor states . . .

- **Opinion**
- **Quote**
- **Analysis**

Body paragraphs 3 and 4:

Body paragraphs should follow **TOQA** (See above).

→ Conclusion:

- Reword your thesis.
- Tie your points together.
- In 1 – 3 sentences, tell your reader the significance of the ideas you have analyzed.
- Clincher: End your paper with a short sentence that reinforces your argument. This last sentence should either include some words from your attention-getter or it should include some words from your title. This gives a sense of closure to your paper.

* Some ideas for this assignment came from Mr. Lettiere's English on the Web:
http://www.argo217.k12.il.us/departs/english/blettiere/short_stories2.htm#cask

“Cask of Amontillado”: Short Story Analysis Paper

Introduction

ANT

Attention getter:

Necessary information:

Thesis statement: *Through his use of first person point of view, characterization, and setting, Poe creates a mood of mounting horror in “The Cask of Amontillado.”*

Body Paragraph 2

TOQA

Topic:

Opinion:

Quotation:

Analysis:

Transition:

Opinion:

Quotation:

Analysis:

Body Paragraph 3

TOQA

Topic:

Opinion:

Quotation:

Analysis:

Transition:

Opinion:

Quotation:

Analysis:

Body Paragraph 4

TOQA

Topic:

Opinion:

Quotation:

Analysis:

Transition:

Opinion:

Quotation:

Analysis:

Conclusion

Reword the thesis:

Tie together ideas:

Clincher: