

Lesson Name : 45

Lesson Title : Lord of the Flies Essay: Final Draft

Course Name : English 2 Part 2 [Honors]

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In this lesson, you will finish your analytical essay on the novel *Lord of the Flies*. Previously, you completed the first two steps of the paper by completing an outline and then writing a first draft of your essay. In this lesson, you will revise and edit your first draft to create a polished final copy.

Before you begin, you should open your first draft and any feedback that you received from your teacher. You should also review the [rubric](#) for this essay.

You may also need to access to [Lord of the Flies](#).

Step 3 Overview

There are two components to this final step of writing your essay: revising your paper and editing your paper. By completing this step of the process, you demonstrate the following skills:

1. The ability to use feedback as a tool to guide your work
2. The ability to improve and show progress in your writing

Revising and editing using both feedback and your own skill as a writer are essential parts of any writer's work.

A key part of this process is taking some time away from your work before you revise and edit. Hopefully it has been at least a day or two since you finished your draft. If it hasn't, you should still take some time away from your work. Wait for your teacher to provide feedback on your draft. Go do something fun. Work on assignments for another class. Read a book. Use this time to clear your head before you begin the work of revising and editing.

One more tip before you start: It is always helpful to save your final draft with a different file name before you begin to revise and edit. This way, if you change something and then later decide you prefer the original version, you still have both the draft and the final copy. An easy way to differentiate is to use the same file name, but add *_final copy* to the new version, so you know which is which.

Tips for Revising

When you revise your writing, you focus on making changes to the focus, content, and organization of your work. Your teacher will provide feedback in these areas, but you may also use your own intuition and skills as a writer to guide your revisions.

For this assignment, you should think about the following things as you revise.

Focus

- Does your essay focus on one of the five assigned prompts? Remember, you should be writing in response to the same prompt throughout the entire writing process for this essay.

- Does the essay have a properly formatted thesis statement? A properly formatted thesis states what the paper will argue and how the paper will make that argument. You should use a formal tone and avoid phrases like *in this paper* or *in my opinion*.
- Are all of the points in the body of your paper related to your thesis statement? Your thesis is the blueprint for your paper, and it should have a clear correlation to all of your body paragraphs. You may need to revise your supporting points or your thesis statement in order to create a focused paper.

Content

- Does the introduction paragraph have an attention grabber that directly relates to the rest of the introduction? Remember, the attention grabber should not seem entirely unrelated to the rest of the introduction.
- Does the introduction paragraph begin broadly with a general introduction to the book and topic? It should mention both the title and author of the book: *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding.
- Does the introduction end with the thesis statement?
- Does each body paragraph begin with a topic sentence? Each topic sentence should relate to the thesis and introduce the main idea of its corresponding paragraph.
- Does each body paragraph provide textual evidence to support your points? You should choose textual evidence that makes sense and demonstrates the points that you want to make.
- In each body paragraph, do you explain how the textual evidence proves your point? This is the bulk of your analysis. You should always make sure to explain the connection to your audience.
- Does the paper end with an insightful, interesting conclusion? While you should summarize your points, make sure that you do so in an interesting way that helps the audience understand your purpose.
- Is the essay three to five pages? You may need to expand or cut, depending on the current length of your paper. If you need to expand, think about places where you can add more evidence or explain your ideas in more detail. If you need to cut, look for repeating ideas that you can eliminate.

Organization

- Does the essay have an introduction, a body, and conclusion? Does the paper proceed in that order?
- Is the essay organized into paragraphs? The introduction should be its own paragraph. The body should be broken into multiple paragraphs. The conclusion should be its own paragraph. A good rule of thumb is to begin a new paragraph whenever you start discussing a new topic.
- Are the points, ideas, and evidence grouped and developed in a logical way? Make sure that you're not jumping around too much, or your audience will be confused.
- Did you use transitions within and between paragraphs to aid the flow of your paper? Reread it and make sure that it doesn't sound choppy or confusing. Use words thoughtfully to show the connections between points.

Take your time as you revise. Make thoughtful decisions based on your teacher's feedback and your own assessment of your work. After you have made changes, you may want to reach out to a peer or family member. Ask them to read your work and tell you what they think. Remember, you can revise multiple times if necessary.

Tips for Editing

Once you're done revising, you can move on to editing your work. When you edit your writing, you focus on making changes to the style and conventions of your work. Your teacher will provide feedback in these areas, but you may also use your own intuition and skills as a writer to guide your editing.

For this assignment, you should think about the following things as you edit.

Style

- Does the essay use formal language and third-person pronouns? Try to avoid using the pronoun *I* in your paper. The audience knows that they are reading your writing and phrases like *I think* or *in my opinion* are

wordy and unnecessary. You should also avoid using the pronoun *you*. Try using the words *one* or *the reader* instead.

- Is the vocabulary appropriate and varied? Look at the words that you chose and make sure that they are appropriate for the tone of your paper. Try not to repeat yourself too often. For instance, if you describe something as horrible too many times, try to find a different word.
- Are the sentences of varying length and complexity? This is a good time to read your paper aloud and listen to the sentence structure. It can help you identify if the sentences sound choppy, or if you have sentence fragments or run-on sentences.
- Did you cite your textual evidence correctly? You can review the rules for [citing quotations in MLA format](#) as needed.
- Did you format the paper in MLA format? Review the [rules for MLA format](#) if needed.

Conventions

- Is everything spelled correctly? Use a spell-check program. Then reread your work and look for homophones (words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings, such as *there*, *their*, and *they're*).
- Did you eliminate any typos? Look for extra characters or spaces that you may have typed by accident. Check to make sure that your word processing program didn't autocorrect something and mistakenly change a word you wanted to a different word.
- Is your punctuation correct? Check to make sure that you have end punctuation for each sentence and that you used commas, apostrophes, semicolons, and other punctuation correctly.

Again, it might help to have someone else read over your work one more time after you are done editing. If you feel that this is an area where you need improvement, you can ask your reviewer to pay attention to spelling and punctuation. Take your time and make sure to look at each line.

Turning in Your Finished Project

Once you are finished revising and editing and you feel satisfied with your work, it is time to prepare to turn in your essay. Make sure that you save the final draft of your essay in a location that you can easily find and then close your work. When you get to the assessment, you will upload your finished product to the assessment for your teacher to grade.

As always, if you have questions as you complete this lesson, you should contact your teacher.