

CAHSEE LITERARY TERMS REVIEW

Rationale: As you prepare for the CAHSEE, these are the literary terms that you will want to review. We have been learning these terms all year, and you **will** see them on the test. Studying these terms regularly is one major thing you can do to help prepare for the test—how will you feel if you don’t pass because you forgot what a simile is? We recommend that you make a set of flashcards (you should already have half of the cards from the beginning of the year) and review at least half of the cards every night.

LITERARY TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
GENRES: types or categories of literature		
Fiction	Writing that is invented material and does not claim to be factually true.	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> is a work of fiction , as are many of the short stories that we read in class this year.
Nonfiction	Writing that deals with real people, events, and places.	Personal diaries and letters fall into the area of nonfiction . “Into Thin Air” was an example of nonfiction —it was about events that really happened.
Novel	A work of fiction that is longer and more complex than a short story. Setting, plot, and characters are usually developed in great detail.	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , <i>Twilight</i> , and the <i>Harry Potter</i> books are all examples of novels .
Drama	A story that is written to be acted out in front of an audience.	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> is a famous drama .
Prose	The ordinary form of spoken and written language; that is, language that lacks the special features of poetry	Any piece of literature that is written in sentences rather than lines is an example of prose (e.g., essays, articles, stories, etc.).
Poetry	A kind of rhythmic, compressed language that uses figures of speech and imagery designed to appeal to our emotions and imagination	A great poet, Robert Frost, wrote poetry that is still widely read today. “Same Song,” “Heart! We will forget him!,” “Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day,” and “Sea Fever” are all examples of poetry that we have read this year.
Satire	A type of writing that makes fun of human weakness in order to bring about social reform	<i>Don Quixote</i> , by Miguel Cervantes, is a famous satire that makes fun of the old ideals of chivalry (qualities that an ideal medieval knight holds of bravery, honor, and protection of women). Popular television shows such as <i>Saturday Night Live</i> , <i>The Daily Show</i> , and <i>The Colbert Report</i> are examples of political satire .
Essay	A short piece of nonfiction that examines a single subject from a limited point of view (an essay usually includes the writer’s thoughts or reasoning)	Essays are written to inform or persuade and they are expected to be factual, logical, and well organized. An example of an essay that we read this year is “The Man in the Water.”
Article	A nonfiction composition usually dealing with a single topic (an article is usually part of a larger work, like a newspaper or magazine)	An article on winter sports did not discuss warm weather activities. Both of the pieces that we read this year about Good Samaritans were examples of articles .
Memoir	A story of a personal experience	Many former presidents write their memoirs after leaving the presidential office. An example of a memoir that we read this year is “Typhoid Fever.”
Autobiography	An account of a person’s own life	Autobiographies are believable because they are written by the person who directly had the experiences. <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave</i> is a good example.

LITERARY TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
Biography	An account of a person's life written or told by another person	<i>The Life of Julius Caesar</i> is a biography because it was written by Plutarch, not Julius Caesar.
PLOT DEVICES: techniques an author uses to make a story interesting and move along		
Plot	The sequence of related events that make up a story	The plot of "Cinderella" begins when we meet the main character, includes all of the events that happen through the story, and ends with the characters living happily ever after.
Basic Situation (Exposition)	The part of a story that introduces the characters and the conflicts they face	In "Cinderella," we learn that Cinderella wants to go to the ball, but her stepmother and stepsisters refuse to let her go.
Complications	Problems that arise during a story that keep a character from getting what he or she wants	In "Cinderella," Cinderella's fairy godmother gives her a dress, shoes, and carriage, but says she must be home by midnight. Cinderella dances with Prince Charming, but loses her glass slipper when she rushes to make it home in time.
Climax	The story's most exciting or suspenseful moment, when something happens that decides the outcome of the conflict	In "Cinderella," Prince Charming finds the slipper and takes it around the kingdom, asking all available young ladies to try it on. When he gets to Cinderella's house, it doesn't fit on her stepsisters' feet, but when Cinderella tries it on, it fits perfectly.
Resolution (Denouement)	The last part of the plot, where the conflict is resolved and the story ends	In "Cinderella," Prince Charming and Cinderella get married and live happily ever after.
Conflict	A struggle between a character and some force	In "Into Thin Air," the conflicts are between the men who are trying to climb to the top of the mountain and the obstacles that get in the way of them accomplishing that goal (see below).
External Conflict	A struggle between a character and something <i>outside</i> himself or herself	In "Into Thin Air," some of the external conflicts are between the climbers and one another, the climbers and the mountain, the climbers and the weather, and the climbers and the Hindu gods.
Internal Conflict	A struggle between a character and himself or herself	In "Into Thin Air," an example of an internal conflict is the climbers trying to overcome their own fear and physical limitations.
Cause	The reason that something happens	In "Contents of a Dead Man's Pocket," the breeze from the door closing causes the yellow paper to blow out the window.
Effect	The result of an action, decision, or situation	In "Contents of a Dead Man's Pocket," the effect of Tom Benecke breaking the window is that he falls back into his apartment.
Chronological Order	The arrangement of details in time order; that is, the order in which they happened	Chronological order is used to describe a series of events such as a historical event, or to explain the steps in a process such as astronaut training.
Flashback	Scene in a piece of literature that interrupts the present action of the plot to show events that happened at an earlier time	In Ernest Hemingway's "The Snows of Kilimanjaro," the protagonist, Harry Street, has been injured on a hunt in Africa. Dying, his mind becomes preoccupied with incidents in his past. In a flashback , Street remembers one of his wartime comrades dying painfully on barbed wire on a battlefield in Spain.

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Foreshadowing	The use of clues to hint at what is going to happen later in the plot	In Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , Romeo's expression of fear in Act I, Scene 4 foreshadows the catastrophe to come: "By some vile forfeit of untimely death."
Suspense	The quality in a story or play that makes the reader eager to discover what will happen next or how the story will end	In "Contents of a Dead Man's Pocket," suspense is generated from Tom's precarious position on the ledge outside his apartment—we wonder whether he will make it safely back into his apartment or fall to his death.
Setting	The time and place in which a story unfolds	The setting in Act I, Scene 1 of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , for example, is a public square in Verona, Italy during the summer. A drama may contain a single setting , or the setting may change from scene to scene.
Protagonist	The main character in a story	The protagonist of "Through the Tunnel" is Jerry, a young boy trying to achieve his goal of swimming through an underwater tunnel.
Antagonist	The character or force that blocks the protagonist from achieving his or her goal	The antagonist of "Through the Tunnel" is the tunnel—it stands in the way of Jerry achieving his goal.
Subordinate Character	Character who may be less important to the story than the protagonist or antagonist, but is still important to the plot and/or reveals information about the main character	In "Through the Tunnel," the mother and the teenage boys are examples of subordinate characters . They show us that Jerry is at a transition period in his life—he is still dependent on his mother, but wants to be independent like the teenage boys.
Direct Characterization	When an author tells us directly what a character is like	Jim is tall, dark, and handsome.
Indirect Characterization	When readers have to put "clues" together to figure out for ourselves what a character is like	When Jim walks into the room, all of the women smile up at him and blush when he waves in their direction.
Static Character	A character who does not change over the course of a story	In "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," Cindy Lou Who is a static character —she is just as nice in the end as she was in the beginning.
Dynamic Character	A character who changes in an important way as the result of the story's action	In "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," the Grinch is a dynamic character —he starts out hating Christmas and trying to ruin it, but by the end, his heart has grown three sizes and he helps celebrate Christmas.
Flat Character	A character who only has one or two personality traits; he or she can be described in a single phrase	In <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> , Augustus Gloop is a flat character —he can be described as greedy and spoiled.
Round Character	A character with the three-dimensional qualities of real people, with many traits and complexities	In <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> , Willy Wonka is a dynamic character —he is eccentric, but he is compassionate and creative, and we learn his back story, which explains some of his odd behavior.
Stock Character	Characters who fit our preconceived notions about a "type"	Examples of stock characters include a ditzy cheerleader, an eccentric detective, or a nice grandmother.

LITERARY TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
Motivation	The reasons for a character's behavior, what he/she says, or the decisions he/she makes	In "Two Kinds," Jing-Mei's motivation for not taking her piano lessons seriously is that she wants her mother to appreciate her for who she is.
POINT OF VIEW: <i>the vantage point or perspective from which a writer tells a story</i>		
1st Person POV	The narrator is a character in the story. They use the pronoun "I" and can only reveal their own thoughts, not the thoughts of the other characters.	"I feel that my life is becoming more difficult the longer I live!"
3rd Person Limited POV	The narrator, who plays no part in the story, zooms in on the thoughts and feelings of one character.	We know the thoughts and feelings of the character, but the emotions of the other characters are revealed only through their words and the observations of the narrator.
3rd Person Omniscient POV	The narrator plays no part in the story but can tell us what more than one of the characters is thinking and feeling as well as what is happening in other places.	An omniscient narrator can understand and know the thoughts of more than one character.
Narrator/Speaker	The person telling the story (called the "speaker" in poetry)	In "Contents of a Dead Man's Pocket," the narrator is not part of the story. In "Everyday Use," Mama is the narrator .
Persona	A speaker created by a writer to tell a story or speak in a poem.	When there is a third person limited or omniscient narrator, we should not assume that the person telling the story is the author—it is a fictional persona that the author has created.
DRAMATIC DEVICES: <i>techniques a playwright uses to make a drama interesting for an audience to see and hear</i>		
Comedy	A dramatic work that is light and often humorous in tone and usually ends happily, with a peaceful resolution of the main conflict	Shakespeare's comedies include <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> , and <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> .
Tragedy	A dramatic work that presents the downfall of a dignified character or characters who are involved in historically or socially significant events. The events in a tragic plot are set in motion by a decision that is often an error in judgment. Succeeding events inevitably lead to a disastrous conclusion, usually death.	Shakespeare's tragedies include <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , <i>Hamlet</i> , <i>Macbeth</i> , and <i>Julius Caesar</i> .
Tragic Hero	The main character in a tragedy who shows evidence of high rank and nobility of character, is marred by a tragic flaw or a fatal mistake in judgment, gains self-knowledge and wisdom, and comes to an unhappy end.	Julius Caesar in <i>Julius Caesar</i> , Hamlet in <i>Hamlet</i> , Macbeth in <i>Macbeth</i> , Oedipus in <i>Oedipus Rex</i>
Dialogue	In drama, a conversation between two characters	Hamlet and his mother, Gertrude in William Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> exchange these words in Act III, Scene 4. QUEEN: Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended. HAMLET: Mother, you have my father much offended. QUEEN: Come, come, you answer with an idle tongue. HAMLET: Go, go, you question with a wicked tongue.

LITERARY TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
Dramatic Monologue	A poem or part of a drama in which a speaker addresses one or more silent listeners, often reflecting on a specific problem or situation	Jay Leno, David Letterman, and Conan O'Brien all perform a monologue every night on their programs. Most <i>Saturday Night Live</i> episodes also begin with a monologue in which the guest host speaks to the audience.
Soliloquy	Long speech in which a character who is alone onstage expresses private thoughts or feelings	In Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet</i> , he speaks the words "To be or not to be, that is the question." A more modern example of a soliloquy might be when the characters in <i>The Office</i> speak directly to the camera during an interview—no other characters are there and we learn their private thoughts and feelings.
Aside	In a play, words spoken directly to the audience or to another character, but not overheard by others onstage	Shakespeare is famous for asides in his plays. A more modern example would be in <i>Malcolm in the Middle</i> , when Malcolm turns to speak to the camera in the middle of a scene, but none of the other characters can hear him.
Foil	Character who serves as a contrast to another character	In <i>Don Quixote</i> , the sensible, down-to-earth Sancho Panzo serves as a foil for the romantic, deluded Don Quixote. Other examples of foil characters would be Bart and Lisa Simpson in <i>The Simpsons</i> or Michael and Dwight in <i>The Office</i> .
Scene Design	Describes what the stage should look like in order to make the audience believe the story is happening in a specific time and place (includes the set, or background; lighting; costumes; and props)	The scene design for <i>The Office</i> would include an office with desks (the set , or background), dim lighting , business attire (costumes), and computers, coffee mugs, paper, etc. (props).
Props	Portable items that actors carry or handle onstage in order to perform the actions of the play	When Romeo and Juliet kill themselves at the end of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , the dagger that they use would be considered a prop .
Stage Directions	A playwright's written instructions about how the actors are to move and behave in a play. They explain in what direction characters should move, what facial expressions they should assume, and so on.	Stage directions are written in italics and surrounded by brackets: [<i>Most of the students raise their hands.</i>].

TYPES OF IRONY: *difference between what we expect and the reality of the situation*

<i>Situational Irony</i>	When what actually happens is the opposite of what is expected	A man wins the lottery, then becomes homeless.
<i>Dramatic Irony</i>	When the reader or the audience knows something important that a character does not know	When Little Red Riding Hood says "What big teeth you have, grandma!," we as an audience know that it is the wolf!
<i>Verbal Irony</i>	When a speaker says one thing but intentionally means the opposite	When you say to a person consuming an entire pizza, "Oh, having a little snack?"
<i>Ambiguity</i>	When a word, phrase, action, or situation can be interpreted two or more ways, all of which can be supported by the context of the work	In "Notes from a Bottle," we never find out exactly what caused the flood or what happens to the people in the apartment building.
<i>Subtlety</i>	When meaning is delicate, almost undetectable	In <i>The Office</i> , the characters roll their eyes at the camera when Michael does something stupid instead of saying that they don't like him.

LITERARY TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
<i>Contradiction</i>	A direct opposition between two things	You say you hate the taste of tomatoes, but ask for extra ketchup on your hamburger.
<i>Incongruity</i>	When a piece of information does not seem to fit with the rest of the information	A person wins the lottery, then gets angry.
FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE: language not meant to be understood on a literal level		
Imagery	The use of words and phrases that appeal to the five senses	As the last seconds ticked down, the fans gripped their chilled drinks in anticipation. After the clock hit zero, the yellow and black suits stormed the green, beaten field. They cried in excitement and exhaustion while they hugged teammates. From the sky, red, blue, and white streamers danced down through the gentle smoke from the fireworks. The head coach was showered with freezing cold Gatorade that soaked every inch of his body and ran into his mouth, greeting him with sweetness. The look on his face was proud and he was clearly in disbelief that this had happened to him—yes, he had just won the Super Bowl.
Simile	Figure of speech that makes a comparison between two seemingly unlikely things by using a connecting word such as <i>like</i> , <i>as</i> , <i>than</i> , or <i>resembles</i>	Her smile was <i>like</i> the sun.
Metaphor	Figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things without using a connecting word such as <i>like</i> , <i>as</i> , <i>than</i> , or <i>resembles</i>	Her smile makes the sun seem dim.
Personification	Figure of speech in which a nonhuman thing or quality is talked about as if it were human	Sorrow came knocking at my door.
Hyperbole	Figure of speech that uses exaggeration to express strong emotion or create a comic effect	The limousine is as long as an ocean liner.
Idiom	A phrase or expression that means something different than what the words actually say	“It’s raining cats and dogs.”
Symbol	Person, place, thing, or event that stands both for itself and for something beyond itself	The heart can be a symbol for love; red roses also symbolize love.
Allegory	A narrative (story) in which characters and settings stand as symbols expressing truths about human life	The novel <i>Animal Farm</i> is not just a “cute” story about animals; it is an allegory for the Russian Revolution.
Allusion	A reference in a literary work to a person, place, or thing in history or another work of literature (often indirect or brief references to well-known characters or events)	“That football player is a modern-day Hercules” (allusion to the Hercules of Greek mythology, who was exceptionally strong); “Math is my Kryptonite” (allusion to Superman, whose weakness was Kryptonite)
Stanza	A grouping of two or more lines in a poem	Think of a stanza as a paragraph in a poem.

LITERARY TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
<i>Line</i>	A sequence of words printed as a separate entity on the page in a poem	Literally, one line of a poem (lines are what make up the stanzas).
SOUND DEVICES: a poet's use of language to create specific sounds or add meaning to a poem		
Alliteration	Repetition of the same or similar consonant sounds in words that are close together, especially at the beginning of words	Sally sells seashells by the seashore.
Onomatopoeia	Use of a word whose sound imitates or suggests its meaning	Buzz, splash, hiss, and boom are all examples of onomatopoetic words.
Rhyme	Repetition of accented vowel sounds and all sounds following them in words that are close together in a poem. End rhyme occurs at the end of the line.	I love Billy So does Milly People say it's silly
<i>WRITER'S STYLE: a particular way a writer uses language—mainly through diction</i>		
<i>Tone</i>	The attitude a writer takes toward a subject, a character, or the reader. Tone is given through the writer's choice of words and details.	The happy ending of most fairy tales produces a romantic, positive, or hopeful tone toward life.
<i>Mood</i>	The emotional effect that a piece of writing evokes in the reader	A story that takes place on a dark and stormy night creates a scary mood .
<i>Diction</i>	A writer's or speaker's choice of words. Diction is an essential element of a writer's style.	A writer's diction can be simple (clothing) or flowery (apparel), modern (dress) or old-fashioned (frock).
<i>Connotation</i>	All the meanings, associations, or emotions that a word suggests. Connotations play an important part in creating diction, mood, and tone.	An expensive restaurant might advertise its delicious "cuisine" rather than its good "cooking." The word "cuisine" would be a better choice for the restaurant to use because it has connotations of elegance and sophistication.
<i>Denotation</i>	The literal, dictionary definition of a word	"Cuisine" and "cooking" have the same denotation —literal meaning—"prepared food."
<i>Dialect</i>	A form of language that is spoken in a particular place or by a particular group of people	In the South, people often say "y'all" instead of "you all."
<i>Theme</i>	The central idea or insight about human life the author wants us to obtain from reading the author's writing. Theme is the revelation about life the writer wishes us to discover about the subject. To discover theme , two clues to consider are the way the main character has changed and the way the conflict has been resolved.	Theme must be stated in a complete sentence. It is not enough to say that the theme of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> is love; a better theme would be: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> reveals that life is full of contrasts—love and hate, joy and sorrow, light and dark, youth and age, life and death—all of which have a big impact on us.
<i>Inference</i>	An educated guess; reading "between the lines" to make guesses about what's left unsaid	If a friend, who's never late, doesn't appear at the usual time to pick you up for school, you might infer that something's happened: a traffic jam, she's sick, or she's been in an accident.

LITERARY TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
<i>Analogy</i>	Comparison made between two things to show how they are alike	In “The Man in the Water,” the writer draws an analogy between a man’s struggle to stay alive in freezing water and a battle against “an impossible, impersonal enemy.”
<i>Anecdote</i>	A brief account of an interesting incident or event that usually is intended to entertain or to make a point	Using an anecdote is an interesting way to write a hook and introduce your topic in an essay. In an introduction to an essay persuading the district to keep Segerstrom as a “fundamental” high school, I may start with an anecdote about my experience at a comprehensive high school where most of my classmates didn’t arrive to class on time or do their homework.
INFORMATIONAL READING: texts that communicate information and data		
Main Idea	The writer’s most important point, opinion, or message	The main idea may be stated directly, or it may be only suggested or implied. If the main idea is not stated directly, it’s up to you to look at the details and decide on the writer’s main idea . In “Into Thin Air,” the author’s main idea was that the risk-taking quality that makes people want to climb Mt. Everest will lead to more tragedies in the future.
Supporting Details	Specific information, examples, and facts that help a reader better understand the main idea of a piece of writing and make an argument believable	When we read the article about weddings in Uzbekistan, the main idea was that weddings symbolize the transition from childhood to adulthood; all of the details about weddings and examples from the author’s experience are supporting details .
Author’s Purpose	The purpose is the reason the writer wrote the piece. The piece was most likely written to entertain, inform, or persuade .	The purpose of most nonfiction is to inform , but the purpose of most fiction is to entertain . The main purpose of an editorial in a newspaper is to persuade you to have the same viewpoint as the editor.
Audience	The particular group of readers or viewers that the writer is addressing. A writer considers his or her audience when deciding on a subject, a purpose for writing, and the tone and style in which to write.	When you write essays in class, your audience is the teacher. When you write for the CAHSEE, your audience will be English teachers from all over California. When you write a post on your Myspace page, your audience is your friends.
Argument	A statement, reason, or fact for or against a point; this is what a writer tries to prove in an essay, especially a persuasive essay	In the 2008 political campaign, many reporters wrote editorials: in some, the argument was that Americans should vote for Barack Obama, while in others, the argument was that Americans should vote for John McCain.
Evidence	Details that support your claims and make you appear credible	Evidence , being factual and verifiable, can prove a writer or speaker’s point. In an editorial arguing that Americans should vote for either Barack Obama or John McCain, their experience and stance on important issues would count as evidence for the author’s argument.
Thesis Statement	The central idea of an essay. The thesis is a complete sentence that establishes the topic of the essay in clear, unambiguous language.	If you were writing an essay about “Through the Tunnel,” you might write a thesis statement like this: “The tunnel symbolizes Jerry’s transition from childhood to adulthood because they are both challenges that must be overcome.” Don’t forget to include a topic, statement, and reason .

LITERARY TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
Logical Appeal	Argument that speaks to a reader's mind and/or common sense and requires him or her to be reasonable	If you are trying to argue that broccoli should be banned from your school's cafeteria, you might say, "If the cafeteria reeks of broccoli, teachers will try to get out of lunch duty and older students will stop using the cafeteria completely. This can only hurt the school's lunchtime profits."
Emotional Appeal	Argument that speaks to a reader's emotions; it may be powerful, but writers must be careful not to make readers feel manipulated	If you are trying to argue that broccoli should be banned from your school's cafeteria, you might say, "It is child abuse to force children against their will to eat and smell disgusting food that they hate."
Ethical Appeal	Argument that appeals to a reader's sense of ethics or moral values; it establishes that a source is trustworthy	If you are trying to argue that broccoli should be banned from your school's cafeteria, you might say, "Is it fair to force children to eat broccoli, a vegetable that even former president George Bush despises?"
Counterargument	When a writer acknowledges the arguments of those who might disagree with him or her and then shows why those arguments are wrong	If you are trying to argue that broccoli should be banned from your school's cafeteria, you might say, "While broccoli does have certain health benefits, it is unfair to force children to eat something they despise when those health benefits are available in other, more appetizing, foods."
Hook	A sentence at the beginning of an essay that grabs the reader's attention and makes them want to keep reading	If you are writing an essay about Jerry's transition from childhood to adulthood in "Through the Tunnel," you might begin by saying, "When Jewish children come of age, they participate in a bat mitzvah or a bar mitzvah when they turn thirteen. This signals to friends and family that they are ready to take responsibility for their religious rituals, laws and traditions."
Bibliography	A list of materials used to research a topic and/or write a text	Bibliographies are usually found at the end of research papers, and they usually include every book, article, website, etc. that an author quoted or read while getting ideas for their argument.
Synthesize	To combine information from a variety of sources	When we studied coming-of-age rituals, we read three articles (one about quinceañeras, one about vision quests, and one about weddings in Uzbekistan), and synthesized the ideas to conclude that most cultures have a special ritual that symbolizes the transition from childhood to adulthood.
Compare	To identify similarities between two things	If you were comparing Superman and Batman, you might say that they are both strong, they are both superheroes, and they both try to save the people around them.
Contrast	To identify differences between two things	If you were contrasting Superman and Batman, you might say that Superman has superpowers while Batman does not, that Superman is an alien while Batman is a human, and that Superman's alter ego is a reporter while Batman's is a multimillionaire.

LITERARY TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
Research Questions	A research question is one that can be answered using facts found through research. The more specific it is, the easier it is to answer.	If you wanted to know how common cancer is in the United States, you might ask, "How many Americans were diagnosed with cancer in 2008?" Specific questions are the best way to find specific information; however, remember that if you are writing a research paper, you need a question that is general (or broad) enough to write an entire paper about it. If you were writing a research paper about cancer, you might ask, "What are the most common causes of cancer in the United States?"
Primary Source	A firsthand account of an event	Diaries, journals, letters, speeches, autobiographies, news stories, photographs, and works of art are all examples of primary sources .
Secondary Source	A source that presents information compiled from or based on other sources	Encyclopedia articles, biographies, and documentaries are all examples of secondary sources .
Generalization	A broad statement about an entire group	"Students at Segerstrom are more motivated than students at Valley" is an example of a generalization —it may be true for the most part; however, there are exceptions on both sides.
Opinion	A statement that reflects the writer's or speaker's belief, but which cannot be supported by proof or evidence	"Broccoli should be banned from the school cafeteria" and "Broccoli tastes bad" are examples of opinions .
Fact	A statement that can be proved	"According to a recent survey, 72% of all students in the school agree that broccoli tastes terrible" is an example of a fact .
Bias	A particular tendency or inclination that prevents fair consideration of a question; prejudice	If you asked a USC fan to write an article about college football teams in Southern California, they would be biased toward USC and against UCLA.
Objective	Based on facts	An article listing the health benefits of Wheaties as compared to other cereals that relies on lists of ingredients and statistics would be an objective article.
Subjective	Includes a writer's personal feelings and opinions	A letter to the editor in which the writer explains why he or she prefers Wheaties to Rice Krispies would be a piece of subjective writing.
Credible	Believable	<i>Newsweek</i> is generally a more trustworthy, or credible , source for news than <i>US Weekly</i> or <i>The National Enquirer</i> .
Reliable	From trustworthy sources	A website published by government agencies or the research department at a college would be more reliable than a high school student's blog.
Coherent	Logically connected; consistent	A coherent essay about frogs would not have a paragraph about lizards in the middle of it.
Logical Order	When a writer arranges his or her ideas (or steps in a functional document) in an order that makes sense and is easy for a reader to follow	If you were writing down the steps to make a peanut butter sandwich, the logical order would be to have the reader take out the bread before spreading peanut butter on it.

LITERARY TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
Heading	The title or caption of a page, chapter, or section	In the manual for a Wii, there might be different headings for “How to Operate Your Wii” and “Troubleshooting.”
Graphics	A picture used to illustrate the information presented in a text	In the Wii manual, there might be graphics that illustrate the buttons on the controller next to the explanation of what each button does.
Subtitle	A secondary, usually explanatory, title of a literary work	For the book <i>Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl</i> , <i>Anne Frank</i> would be the title and <i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> would be the subtitle .
Chart	A visual representation of numerical data	In a research paper on cancer, there might be a chart that lists types of cancer in one column and the number of people who have each type of cancer in another column.
Graph	A diagram representing a system of connections among two or more things with the use of dots, lines, bars, etc.	In a research paper on cancer, there might be a graph showing how the number of people with lung cancer has changed over a certain number of years.
Diagram	A drawing or plan that outlines and explains the parts, operation, etc. of something	In the instructions for putting together a bookshelf, there might be a diagram showing how the pieces connect together.
Context Clues	Hints or suggestions that may surround unfamiliar words or phrases in a piece of writing and clarify their meaning	In the sentence “When Michael Phelps came out of the water, he knew he had won the gold medal because he was greeted by an uproarious crowd,” you know that the word “uproarious” must mean “loud” because of context clues like “Michael Phelps,” “won,” “gold medal,” and “crowd.”

DO I UNDERLINE OR USE QUOTATION MARKS?	
HINT: If the work is long, underline it. If short, use quotations. It usually works!	
UNDERLINE IF HANDWRITING; USE <i>ITALICS</i> IF TYPING FOR THE FOLLOWING:	
Books	<i>Bless Me, Ultima</i>
Plays	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
Movies/Films	<i>Finding Nemo</i>
Television Shows	<i>The Office</i>
Periodicals (Magazines/Newspapers)	<i>Seventeen; The New York Times</i>
Works of Art	<i>The Last Supper</i>
USE QUOTATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING:	
Short Stories	“The Gift of the Magi”
Poems	“The Road Not Taken”
Articles from Periodicals (Magazines/Newspapers)	“What Teens Need to Know About College”
Songs	“Jingle Bells”