

WORKING OUTLINE: CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Your outline should do the following:

1. reflect an attempt to ask both WHAT and SO WHAT questions;
2. include some indication of the placement of PRIMARY and SECONDARY sources, examples, illustrations;
3. make EXPLICIT THE RELATIONSHIP among the movements of the argument, and between these and the THESIS; include SO WHAT statements for each movement of the argument;
4. accurately reflect thesis;
5. demonstrate a clear METHOD OF ORGANIZATION

WORKING THESIS

Your working thesis should do the following:

1. provide a MAP of the argument;
2. include both WHAT and SO WHAT statements;

WHAT STATEMENTS: which texts, what key issues, what aspect of the texts, what kind of evidence you will use;

SO WHAT STATEMENTS: what is significant about these elements, how they relate to a broader issue or illuminate underlying values, concerns, contexts that shape the texts;

3. accurately reflect the argument in the working outline;
4. take a POSITION on the issue that is SPECIFIC TO THE TEXTS IN QUESTION. **Do not** make generalized statements that could apply to ANY text. How do THESE texts address the issue at hand?

SAMPLE WORKING THESIS

WHAT: Critical responses to *Titus Andronicus* equate violence with the "base," the "silent," the "lower classes" and with the "primitive."

SO WHAT: Reflecting a general disparagement of the physical in favour of the intellectual or symbolic, this pattern articulates a system of value that yokes violence with racial and class "otherness," thereby privileging middle-class, Western, Judeo-Christian models of individualism.