



The Research Paper--intro

- Develop a thesis based on your reading of scholarly articles
 - The options for interpretation you present should be defensible from these articles as argument, counterargument, or synthesis.
 - The specifics of the argument should be tied to textual evidence (quotation from the text), though you can also use the critics' interpretation of passages to support.
 - You should use the articles as a springboard and ADD to any interpretations you present, not merely repeat them. There should be a sense of engagement with the critics and the text, so you can disagree with parts of what they say even if your larger thesis agrees.
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Intro para

- The intro paragraphs
 - -give a summary of criticism on the topic
 - -situate the writer's own argument about the issue within this context
 - - set up the ideas that the writer will examine (three **specific** possibilities for interpretation that suggest the structure of the paper).
- **NOT**: I will examine gender in this paper.
- This tells the reader **nothing** about the upcoming structure or the aspects you will examine.



Sample intro paras

- Example: Othello as tragic hero
- First Para: set up the issue using the critics
 - Discussions of Othello as a tragic hero in the play have tended to center on the problem of Othello's quick fall (Dillon), the nature of his tragic flaw (Holderness), and the nobility (or not) of his final speech (Headlam Wells). As Holderness puts the problem,
 - [h]ere we have a man...who is loved by his lady, valued by the state, admired by the Venetian nobility...He is high-minded, generous and honourable. As a military leader his virtues appear self-evident and are certainly acknowledged by the state. As a man, his own speech and behaviour, which are always eloquent and principled, and the love Desdemona bears for him, must testify to his qualities. Yet Iago can tempt Othello into suspicion, mistrust, paranoia and murder" (58).
 - In a traditional Aristotelian reading of tragedy, notes Holderness, the tragedy is character- and to a lesser extent event-based, so that we must read the tragedy largely through character analysis and as a function of fate (57).

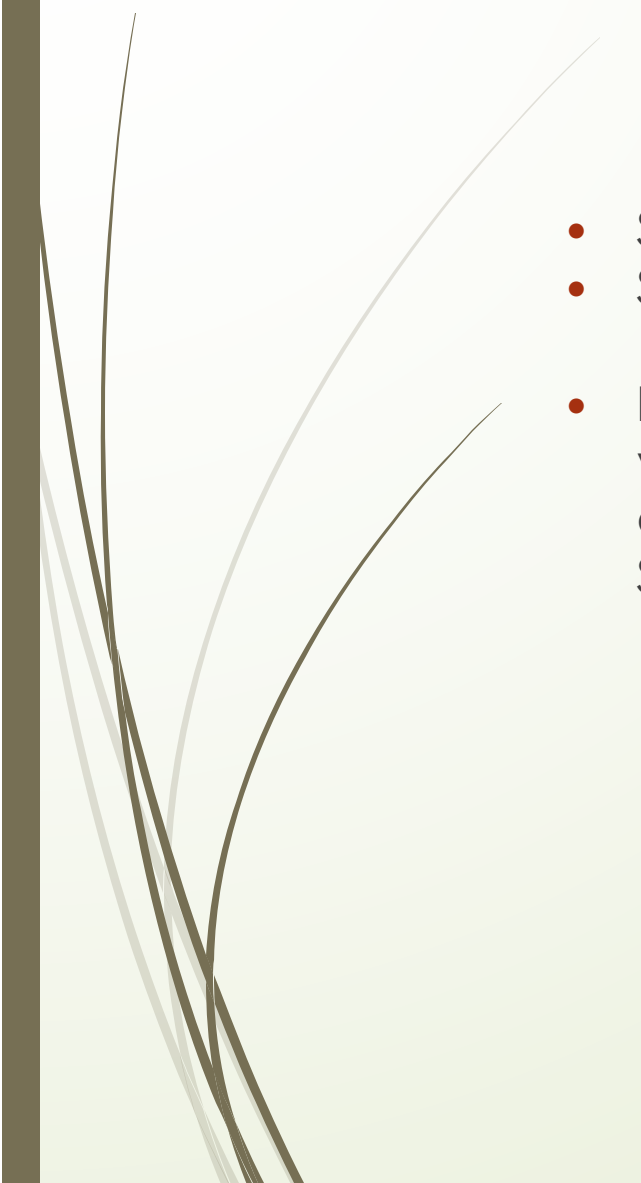


Intro to your argument

- On the other hand, Headlam Wells argues that the heroic attributes we may attach to Othello are being critiqued in the play because in the speech where he says goodbye to such military trappings as “the neighing steed and the shrill trump” (3.3.366), he is also describing attributes that Shakespeare has been shown elsewhere to critique.
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Intro para and Thesis Statement

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- Second part of intro para:
 - Situate your own reading by adding to and/or rejecting the critics.
 - I agree with Holderness that a reading of Othello's flaws in the traditional view of tragedy leads too easily into the trap of interpreting Othello's downfall as a result of his ethnicity, as Hugh Quarshie has noted in the Royal Shakespeare Company's panel on *Othello* (RSC).



Works Cited entry for journal articles

- Example:
- Jacobsen, Ken. "Iago's Art of War: The Machiavellian Moment in *Othello*." *Modern Philology*, vol. 106, no. 3, pp. 497-529. *Literary Reference Center*. www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/mp/current.

This should be a hanging indent.

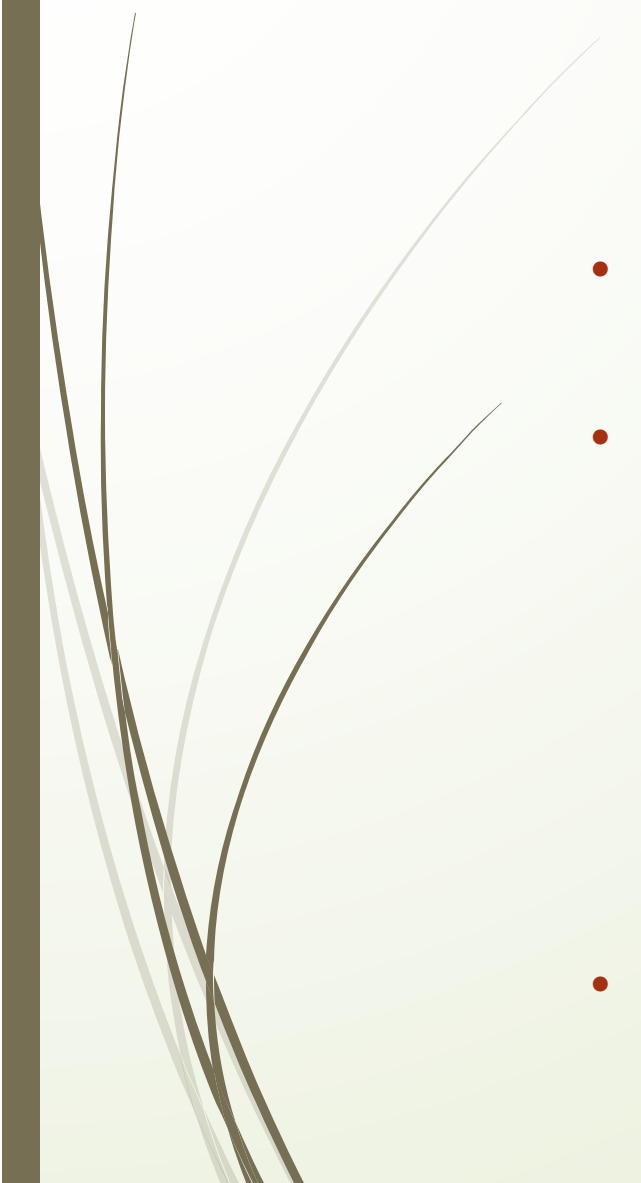
Use "Academic Journal Article in a **Database**" as the format guide for articles. For this example, there isn't a DOI. In that case, you need a short version of the journal website.

EBSCO host is TOO GENERAL for the database name: it shows up for EVERY article.

Italicize the play title in the body of the paper and in the Works Cited entry.



Example



- An example based on Frankenstein:
- Mary Shelley's titular character has been seen as an overreacher figure, a scientist who is associated with Eve and Satan in his quest for forbidden knowledge (Gilbert and Gubar 101) and as a version of Shelley's husband, Percy Bysshe Shelley (Small 205). Frankenstein may be seen to represent all of these things: primarily, however, I agree with JC Ball that the Frankenstein is a figure who represents the novel's critique of imperialism: his desire to conquer, his interpretation of relationships as necessarily hierarchical, and his embracing of imperialist history all suggest this critique.
- Your Works Cited would include the novel and the three articles cited.