

What is expected from a 147 student:¹

- Analysis:
 - Have a clear argument that fits the scope of the assignment (ex: a one-page critical paragraph for close reading assignments)
 - Make claims to support the main argument
 - Support their claims with textual evidence (i.e. relevant quotes from the text, with appropriate citations)
 - Have a rather convincing/persuasive analysis.
- Mechanics/Formatting/Style:
 - Have a well-organized, coherent, and concise document
 - Correctly integrate quotations
 - Have a proofread document that is as free from grammatical mistakes as possible
 - Cite appropriately (MLA Citations style - 8th edition).

Common error patterns in close-readings²:

- Analysis:
 - Focus on too many ideas (unrealistic for the scope of the assignment)
 - Present an idea without unpacking or elaborating
 - Make general assumptions and statements
 - Summarize the plot/passage instead of critically analyzing
 - Lack of textual evidence or none at all
- Mechanics/Formatting/Style:
 - Grammatical errors: S-V agreement; Long sentences (Wordy, no punctuation, etc.); inappropriate use of prepositions
 - Typos
 - Informal and colloquial language (mostly verb abbreviation)

Things to keep in mind:

- With the progression of the term, the patterns of errors become more analytical than mechanical/grammatical (even though some student may want to focus on the latter)
- Students (in Fall 2017) have been encouraged to incorporate close readings into essays, which may create some writing issues (interruption of flow, incoherence, etc.)
- Some assignments specify page number instead of word count, which may lead to students writing much less than appropriate. In this case students should be encouraged to make sure that they have clearly delivered their ideas and fully supported their arguments.

¹ This section is based off of TA marking instructions for 147 (Fall 2017).

² This section will be updated to include patterns in essays.

- Students are advised to check the CAC self-help resources (by the supervising professor), so some of them may have actually consulted them before coming in for their appointment.

Assigned readings: 147 students read works in a chronological order (from old English to contemporary). They cover an average of 4 books per semester. Works by Shakespeare are common to ENGL 147, and the corpus normally includes one Contemporary Canadian novel