

# The Elements of an Essay

English 1-CP  
English 1 - Honors

# The Introduction

- What should be included in the introductory paragraph?
  - General Statement
    - This is a statement introducing your topic.
  - Examples
    - Add some examples or further explanation of your topic
  - Transition
    - Use a transition to link your topic to the works you will be writing about
  - Thesis Statement
    - This should include author, genre, title, and points

# Works for this assignment

- Laurie Halse Anderson: Speak; novel
- Sophocles: King Oedipus; Greek tragic play
- Homer: The Odyssey; epic poem

# Body Paragraphs

- Restate a thesis point
- Set up for a quotation by introducing a scene and how it relates to your thesis point
- Write out the quotation making sure to cite your source
  - Use quotation marks for anything that is directly quoted from an author
  - At the end of the quoted material, put the author's last name and page number in parentheses
    - Example: (Anderson 31).
- Further explain your quotation and how it proves your point
- Summarize your thesis point

# The Conclusion

- What should be included in a conclusion paragraph?
  - Summarize each body paragraph
  - Restate all aspects of your original thesis statement
  - Make a final statement
- Remember that no new information should be introduced in a conclusion

# What else?

- Write using third person (he, she, it, they, them, the author, the reader, him, her, etc.)
  - Avoid first person (I, me, my, mine, we, us, our)
  - Avoid second person (you, your)
- Write using present tense verbs
  - Avoid verbs ending in 'ed'
- Write using active voice
- Proofread for misused words such as: two, to, too, a lot, their, they're, there, it's, its, etc.
- Avoid all contractions
- Check for spelling mistakes
- Use double-spacing

# Heading

- Your heading for all essays should include the following:
  - Upper left-hand corner; double-spaced
  - Your first and last name
  - Instructor's name (Mrs. Kanuga)
  - Class Information (English 1-CP or Honors, block)
  - Date