
The Student Writing Process & AI

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**Interdisciplinary
Advanced
Writing: Student
Perspectives**

- Tested out of First Year Writing
 - Interested in courses for major, not humanities courses
 - A waste of time – won't be needed in future career
 - Have more important classwork to do
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Cheating and Writing Reluctance

- Insecurity in writing skills
- Time constraints
- Getting graded on something you're struggling with
- Irrelevant skill set

The same struggles that lead to cheating can also lead to students disliking writing courses; students may continue to see writing as irrelevant and shy away from other writing courses

Writing De-Emphasis: Business Administration Degree

Testing out of First Year Writing: *“Many students assume that First-Year Writing will be similar to their high school literature or AP English courses. However, it is quite different.”*

Writing-Intensive Course: *Organizational Behavior*

Advanced Writing in the Business Administration Professions:
Taken in final year at Northeastern, post co-op

Uses for AI

Brainstorming

Thesis Development

Learning College-Level Writing



Brainstorming with AI

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Brainstorm ideas for an essay analyzing Moby Dick



Certainly! Here are some possible ideas for an essay analyzing Moby Dick:



1. The theme of obsession: One of the most prominent themes in Moby Dick is the destructive power of obsession. Write an essay exploring the ways in which Ahab's obsessive pursuit of the white whale leads to his downfall, and the larger commentary on the dangers of single-minded pursuit of a goal.
2. The symbolism of the whale: The white whale is a powerful symbol in the novel, representing both nature and the unknowable mysteries of the universe. Write an essay exploring the various ways in which the whale is used as a symbol throughout the book and what it represents.
3. The language of Moby Dick: Melville's writing style is known for its complexity and richness. Write an essay analyzing the language of Moby Dick, and the ways in which Melville's use of metaphor, symbolism, and imagery contribute to the novel's themes and meaning.
4. The representation of race: Moby Dick has been criticized for its portrayal of non-white characters, particularly the character of Queequeg. Write an essay exploring the representation of race in the novel, and the ways in which Melville grapples with issues of identity and otherness.
5. The structure of the novel: Moby Dick is a sprawling, complex work that blends elements of narrative, philosophy, and poetry. Write an essay exploring the structure of the novel, and the ways in which Melville's experimentation with form contributes to the book's meaning and impact.

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Brainstorm ideas for an essay about The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe



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Here are some ideas for an essay about The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe:

- **The poem's structure and style.** The Raven is a short poem, but it is very carefully structured. The poem is divided into 18 stanzas, each of which has 10 lines. The rhyme scheme is AABA CDCD EFEF GG. The poem is also written in iambic pentameter, which means that each line has 10 syllables, with each syllable being either unstressed or stressed. This regular rhythm and rhyme scheme create a sense of order and control, which is in contrast to the poem's dark and unsettling subject matter.
- **The poem's themes.** The Raven is a poem about grief, loss, and the nature of memory. The poem's speaker is mourning the death of his love, Lenore. The raven's appearance only serves to deepen the speaker's grief, as it reminds him of his loss. The poem also explores the nature of memory. The speaker is haunted by memories of Lenore, and the raven seems to be a manifestation of those memories. The raven's constant repetition of the word "Nevermore" only serves to reinforce the speaker's sense of loss and despair.
- **The poem's symbolism.** The raven is a central symbol in the poem. The raven is often seen as a creature of darkness and mystery. It is also associated with death and the underworld. In the poem, the raven represents the speaker's grief and despair. It is a reminder of his loss and a harbinger of death.
- **The poem's historical context.** The Raven was published in 1845, a time of great social and political change in the United States. The poem can be seen as a reflection of the anxiety and uncertainty of the time. The poem's dark and unsettling tone can be seen as a response to the social and political turmoil of the time.

Responses tend to be generic and repetitive, but give direction to those unfamiliar with literary analysis.

Benefits of Brainstorming with AI

Direction to create a unique argument, narrow down ideas

“When you ask [ChatGPT] for ideas, it really does take creativity to turn those ideas into actually feasible ideas, because every time I’ve asked it for ideas, the original ones are terrible”

Less time brainstorming



More time writing, editing, and formatting

“I think AI helps with the division of labor when it comes to writing a paper”

Clarifying a Thesis with AI

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Help me clarify this thesis: To the survivors of a plague, such as the original audience of King Lear, this injustice and unproductive closure is what makes this play feel realistic. By examining the role that justice plays throughout King Lear, the importance of the play in understanding a pandemic becomes clear.



This thesis suggests that the original audience of King Lear, who were survivors of a plague, found the play's portrayal of injustice and unproductive closure to be realistic and relatable. By examining the role of justice in King Lear, the thesis argues that the play is important in understanding a pandemic. In other words, the thesis suggests that the play's themes resonate with the experience of surviving a plague and can provide insight into the human condition during times of crisis.

College-Level Writing & AI



I. Introduction

- A. Brief overview of Walt Whitman and "Song of Myself"
- B. Thesis statement: "Song of Myself" by Walt Whitman explores various representations of the self through the use of vivid imagery, the rejection of traditional societal norms, and the celebration of the body.

II. Vivid Imagery and Self-Representation

- A. Whitman's use of imagery to convey the complexity of the self
- B. The speaker's connection to nature and the universe
- C. The interplay between the speaker's internal self and external surroundings

III. Rejection of Traditional Societal Norms

- A. The speaker's non-conformist attitudes towards societal expectations
- B. The rejection of religious dogma and embrace of individual spirituality
- C. The celebration of diversity and the acceptance of all types of people

IV. Celebration of the Body

- A. The body as a source of identity and self-expression
- B. The speaker's positive portrayal of the body, including its imperfections
- C. The association of physical pleasure with a healthy sense of self

V. Conclusion

- A. Restate thesis statement
- B. Summary of key points
- C. The significance of "Song of Myself" in American literature and culture.

Even when specifically prompted for college-level writing, programs like ChatGPT cannot produce thoughtful, college-level essays on their own.

If students use AI to help them write, they also need the skills to take the generated text and edit it to become higher-level academic writing.

Embracing AI

“My professors have all said not to use AI, but I consistently am like ‘Hey, write something for me’ and I’ll just take the concepts... They can never tell if that idea was in my head to begin with or if I went and read some article or I read what ChatGPT wrote.”

