A Checklist for Literary Analysis Papers

☐ Is the thesis clearly stated?

☐ Does the writer use examples from the text to convincingly support their interpretation or analysis?

☐ Has the writer avoided giving a simple plot summary?

☐ Are the parts of the work clearly and accurately indicated? Writers need to refer to particular moments in the text.

☐ Does the writer use present tense when describing events in a work of literature, as is convention?

☐ Are titles properly punctuated? Short stories, essays, and most poems appear in quotation marks; titles of books, plays, and epics are italicized.

☐ Has the writer referred to the author properly, using the full name initially and the last name in subsequent references?

☐ Is quoted material properly punctuated, indented (for long quotations), and documented according to the format specified?