

## *Things to Remember When Writing about Literature*

- ◆ Use parenthetical documentation. The way you document your sources will depend on the type of citation you are using (MLA is the standard for Coastal Carolina University's Department of English).
- ◆ Use present tense when discussing a literary work. You do this because the actions in the work are constantly occurring within the work.
- ◆ Do more than just plot summary of the text. You should develop a thesis and support it with evidence from your sources by paraphrasing and using quotations (Keep number one in mind here).
- ◆ Avoid using second person ("you") and contractions
- ◆ Cite the source for every idea that you have borrowed from other works.
- ◆ If a quotation is more than four lines in your paper, you need to make it a block quotation: go to the next line and tab over twice (ten spaces) from the left margin. You do not have to use quotation marks unless you are using actual dialogue.
- ◆ Any source that you document within your paper must be listed on the works cited page.