

Writing at Denison: Theatre

Description of the Discipline

The study of Theatre focuses on the human condition and seeks to express social reality through performing arts. Through its various courses and theatre productions, the Theatre Department offers students the opportunity to gain transformative skills.

1. The participation in and viewing of theatre productions allows students to utilize and learn analytical skills through the interpretation of performing arts
2. The imaginative expression of social reality leads to critical thinking
3. The hard work and effort put into production design and completion implements problem solving skills

Citation Style Used

The discipline of Theatre does not require the use of a specific citation style; however, consistency in a chosen citation style is enforced.

Organization/Required Components

A good Theatre writing assignment focuses on the thorough analysis of the material or theatre production being viewed. Next, research and critical insight is necessary to build a solid thesis and relevant argument. Finally, an overall focus on the expressive style of the material or theatre production being utilized must be evident throughout a Theatre paper.

Voice

Because Theatre focuses on expression, the voice a student uses can be as unique as the student himself/herself. The use of “I” and “me” are encouraged to aid in the formulation of arguments and student expression. When writing production essays, past tense is required.

Types of Writing Assignments

There are two kinds of papers in Theatre: the traditional research paper and the production analysis research paper. The former requires traditional forms of research while the latter requires an analysis of play productions as they pertain to the content of the course at hand. Both require a thesis and an argument.

Research Process

When writing research projects it is important to locate credible and academic sources; good Theatre sources include *the Columbia Encyclopedia of Modern Drama* and the *Continuum Companion to Twentieth-Century Theatre* among others. The research process also entails that students view theatre productions with the intent to analyze the message and concepts presented in the production.

Common Mistakes

Refrain from using jargon without fully understanding the meaning(s), especially if the jargon does not reinforce the specific argument being made. Also, approach all Theatre assignments as you would others by formulating a clear, focused thesis followed by a well-thought-out argument.

Preferred Language (jargon, pronouns)

Each Theatre course will use jargon specific to its content and theme.

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