

Outline Notes → 4 key points!

Pt. #1 How to cite Antigone?

Antigone is one of the selected classics that has been given its own MLA in-text citation form! For parenthetical cites, just use (Ant. page number).

Point #2 – Use linking words to provide unity and focus to your essay

Every thesis should use the key words of prompt.

- **Prompt**= What is the main message of Antigone?
- **Slightly off focus thesis** = Sophocles shows many examples of inflexibility in Antigone.
- **Better thesis** = In Antigone Sophocles's main message is that inflexibility can lead to destruction.

You need links in topic sentences too!

Every topic sentence should contain an explicit link to the thesis by using key words or synonyms for key words in thesis.

Key linkage words for this essay:

- **message/ theme/lesson** in essay on a theme
- **main character / protagonist** in essay on main character
- **view of / attitude about / message about women** in essay on women

Some samples:

Working thesis = In the story of Antigone, the main character is Creon.

TS 1: A **main character** in any story has a conflict or develops a conflict, and in Antigone, Creon faces several conflicts throughout the play.

TS 2: Creon is also the **best choice for the main character** because he develops and changes during the course of the story.

TS 3: Lastly, in a tragedy the **main character** often has to deal with a dramatic loss, and Creon suffers many losses by the end of Antigone.

Point # 3

A topic sentence should state clearly what the central argument of the paragraph is, and it should be foreshadowed in the preview of support.

Thesis: By the end of Antigone, Creon learns three key lessons: to respect the gods' laws, to value family, and to be more flexible and open to advice.

Not nailing the central argument → TS 1: During Antigone, there are many signs of the gods showing how displeased they are with Creon's actions.

Improved TS 1 → : By the end of Antigone, Creon learns the importance of obeying religious laws.

Point #4

*When you make an assertion that a character **changes or learns a lesson**, you need to prove 2 things:*

- When story opens, the character is one way.
 - Prove this from text (cites!)
- By the end, the character has become a different way.
 - Prove this from text (cites!)

Drafting Notes -- Don't forget about →

- Antigone is a play or a drama or a tragedy. ("Book" is pretty general; it's not a novel.)
- In-text citations are necessary for every quote and specific example from play. Make sure title and author of play are mentioned in your introduction, then all in-text citations should provide page numbers in parentheses.
- Quotes are better than examples if they clearly and concisely support your assertion.
- Revise verb tense to stay in present tense when summarizing Antigone.
- Take out "I think," etc.
- Use transition → See page 16 of *SHHS Handbook*.
- Be sure to **use rubric** if you want a good grade.