Things we need to work on for our IOC:

*Intro.:*

-needs to include all 5 parts:

-name and candidate number

-Title and author

-Context of the passage in relation to the entire novel- this context needs to be relevant to your passage. *state what happened before and after the passage- be as specific as you can. This helps to show how well you understand the novel.*

**-Importance of passage- take this analysis as far as you can…..why is what the passage does important?**

***Ex: This passage is important because it confirms that Claudius is guilty and shows Hamlet’s lack of action despite opportunity. You need to explain why this is important to the play as a whole. This is important to the play as a whole because Claudius’ guilt means that Hamlet has no reason to delay his vengeance for Claudius and honor his father, but also because Hamlet’s lack of action is something he grapples with throughout the entire play and serves as his hubris, thus it is what he works to overcome and through which Shakespeare can convey one of his most important messages of the play. (you will state that message in your thesis)***

**Your thesis must include theme!! Theme is a universal timeless statement about life. A motif is not enough*….ex: Through Shakespeare comments on the meaningless of life. The meaningless of life is a motif- what is Shakespeare saying ABOUT the meaningless of life? What is a truth about this motif he is revealing through this passage and the play itself? Through the use of various literary techniques, Shakespeare reveals the idea that without purpose and action towards that purpose, life is meaningless.***

***Your theme should apply to the entire work. It should not be character specific.***

**Body of the commentary:**

-Make sure your evidence is specific

**-More analysis is needed!**

**-You must show HOW the technique is what you say it is, show HOW it does what you say it does and finally, show HOW it supports your theme. You can’t just say it does, you have to show HOW it does. (This was #4 on the key- what, about your evidence, shows this?) *Ex: Shakespeare uses rhetorical questions to show Hamlet’s disgust in himself. “rhet. Q example” This shows that Hamlet is upset with himself because he is unable to show the same emotion as the actor who does not have cause to be emotional.*  You have to explain how the use of the rhet. Q shows that he is upset…..what is it about the use of a rhetorical question that conveys his feelings about himself? That shows your understanding of the use of the technique. Then you need to explain how the effect of the use of the rhet. Q helps convey the theme**

**-I am going to suggest that you do not use motif as a lit. technique….what techniques**

**are used to create the motif? That will allow you to show more insight/understanding. This is the same with characterization. What techniques are being used to provide the characterization?**

**Imagery- discuss the particular images. Don’t just list a bunch of words and say that is imagery. What images are created as a result of this use?**

**-You need to connect back to your theme throughout the commentary. You should reiterate that theme after you discuss each literary technique. Mentioning the theme in your thesis and then at the end is not enough.**

**-This is exclusive to “Hamlet”- paraphrase is not analysis! Identifying the literary technique and looking at HOW it is used to help reveal that theme will help you avoid paraphrase. Ex: Hamlet says, “To be or not to be….that is the question.” This shows that Hamlet is questioning whether one should live or die. That is not analysis; that is paraphrase. A better approach: Shakespeare uses the form of a question to show that Hamlet is contemplating if one should live or die. A question is used to figure out an answer, it implies a lack of knowledge on the part of the person asking it. The fact that Hamlet asks the question and does not direct the question to anyone in particular except himself (through soliloquy) shows that he is contemplating the value of life. The fact that he has to *ask* if one should live or die clearly shows his contemplation.**

Make sure you refer to “Hamlet” as a play- not a novel or book.

You can use the context of tragedy to help with analysis- refer back to your notes on tragedy.

Many students said Shakespeare’s language is difficult. If this is the case, you MUST prepare and practice!! You need to identify possible passages and review them- paraphrase them and look at words you don’t understand. Work on one passage a day.