



The 3 Laws of Analytical Writing

You will write a lot in this wonderful and exciting course (insert moans and groans of pain here). Your writing in civics and other social science courses will be primarily analytical. To get you ready to write analytically, Teller and Levinson will lay out the 3 laws for doing so below.

1. THOU SHALT NOT WRITE IN FIRST OR SECOND PERSON

- a. Sentences **SHOULD NOT** contain the following words: *I, me, we, you, our*
- b. Sentences **SHOULD BE** written in THIRD PERSON containing words such as: *they, he, she, it, one*

Example of a *non-analytical* sentence written in *first person*:

Example of an *analytical* sentence written in *third person*:

2. THOU SHALT NOT WRITE AN OPINION

- a. Analytical writing contains arguments based on information that you have discovered. When writing an analytical essay NEVER begin a sentence by stating, "I believe..." or, "In my opinion..." or, "I think..."
Rather, state your point as fact and then back it up with evidence!

Example of *non-analytical* writing- *your opinion*:

Example of *analytical* writing- *state your point*:

3. THOU SHALT NOT USE SLANG

- a. You don't want people who read your writing believing that you had an opinion that was clouding your judgment or ability to use facts or evidence.
- b. Analytical writing is very formal. You are not writing a note to a friend. Rather, you are trying to convince your civics teacher that your position is viable. You can't convince a reader of anything if you use slang – it takes away your credibility and makes you seem unreliable.

Example of *non-analytical* writing- *use of slang*:

Example of *analytical sentence*- *use of proper language*