

How to Read a Prompt (& What to do After...)

{ ELA 3-4H

“Choose a novel or play in which a setting plays a significant role. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the country setting functions in the work as a whole.”

The prompt

& **CONCRETE** part of
prompt = literary
techniques & elements
(the TOOLS the
author uses)

The prompt continued...

& **ABSTRACT** part of
prompt = author's
purpose or opinion
(theme)

The prompt continued...

& CONCRETE: setting

& ABSTRACT: meaning
of the work as a whole

(THIS ALWAYS
MEANS THEME!)

The prompt continued...

↳ How does the setting of *1984* affect Orwell's theme(s)?

Now rephrase as a question

& The setting of *1984*
reflects Orwell's
theme. (DUH.)

Don't parrot....

&In (title), (author's)
(concrete elements)
POWER VERB
(abstract concept)

*Try this (but not as a
formula...more of a
guideline)*

↳ In 1984, Orwell's
austere and grim
setting highlights the
menace of the
totalitarian state.

Concrete

Abstract

Like this.

- & Praise the author.
- & Use a 3-prong thesis.
- & Use 1st or 2nd person.

Don't ever do this stuff. Not ever. Seriously.