Pre-Writing: Literary Analysis
Developing a Thesis Statement

Think about the following subjects in relation to the work of literature. Respond to at least two sections of questions.

THEME
Why do you think the author wrote the work? Did the work make you see something in a new way? Does the work depict an abstract idea, a moral struggle, a psychological struggle or an aspect of human life? Does the plot suggest an analogy to a deeper meaning?

CHARACTER
Does a character change? Why? How? What are a character's prominent qualities? What is the function of a character—does he or she follow an archetype—the hero, the servant, the wise man, a Christ-like figure? Is a character similar to another? Or radically different-a foil? Does a character react similarly or differently when confronted by another character or setting?

PLOT
What is the turning point; why is this incident significant? How does the author maintain your interest throughout the work? Does the ending seem to grow logically and naturally out of the story? Why or why not?

CONFLICT
What force or person does the main character seem to struggle against? What incidents best represent the conflict? Is this conflict resolved? How?

SETTING
What is important about the setting? Are there multiple settings? How are they different? What does the landscape or dwelling suggest about the theme or characters? How does the setting affect the plot and characters?

POINT OF VIEW
Who is telling the story? What is the function of the narration? How does first person, third person omniscient, objective or third person limited affect the story? How does the point of view affect the way the reader understands the story?

SYMBOL
What does a symbol mean? What is its role in the story? How does a symbol affect or deepen the reader's understanding of the work? How does the author help the reader to recognize symbols?

STYLE
How does the writer use imagery, diction, language and/or syntax to express tone or mood? What is the tone? Is there a motif; what is significant about it?