



ELA Virtual Learning

# English II

May 20, 2020



## English II

### Lesson: May 20, 2020

### **Objective/Learning Target:**

- I can analyze the impact of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling on meaning, tone, and the overall writing style of the author.

# BELL RINGER

Hey, man! What's up?

Hello, hun! I Miss you  
so so so much!

Yo! What you up to?

Last lesson we discussed how syntax can play a role in an author's overall writing style. But what about writing mechanics such as punctuation, capitalization, and spelling?

**Imagine you received three text messages from friends and/or family members who just got new phones and numbers. Answer the question below.**

- **Are there any punctuation marks certain friends or family members tend to use.**
- **Are there any basic punctuation, capitalization, or spelling errors they tend to make?**

# MINI PROJECT OVERVIEW

Literary forensics is the scientific study of language in order to identify the author of an anonymous/disputed piece of writing. Literary forensics has been applied to settle plagiarism disputes as well as solve brutal crimes!



For this brief mini-project, students will take on the role of literary detective and our assigned the task determining the authorship of five anonymous poems.

In order to determine authorship, literary detectives focus on three main criteria: diction and syntax, themes, and mechanics. Today we will focus on **mechanics**.

## KEY TERMS

Congratulations! If you completed the bell work, you've helped demonstrate the importance of **syntax in writing style**.

**Mechanics**, when discussing writing, is a fancy term for the rules of a written language a writer must follow such as spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

**Writing style** is a series of techniques and choices a writer tends to make in their writing to form a particular "voice" unique to them.





LEARN

## How does syntax impact writing style and authorship?

Writers have specific tendencies in their use (and misuse) of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Some writers may stand out due to their tendency to entirely capitalize CERTAIN WORDS for emphasis.

Other writers may stand out due to their excessive use of specific punctuation such as exclamation points!!!!



# PRACTICE

Now that we have reviewed mechanics and its impact on style, let's practice by looking at the same five anonymous poems from yesterday.

Use the information from slides 4-6 to determine whether these five poems are authored by **one, two, or three different writers** based on mechanics. The five poems are linked [here](#).

As you read and evaluate the texts, fill out the chart to the right. Include punctuation marks used, unusual or inaccurate word spelling, and unusual or inaccurate capitalization.

Text #	Mechanics (Punctuation, Capitalization, Spelling)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	



# PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*

<b>Text #</b>	<b>Mechanics</b> (Punctuation, Capitalization, Spelling)
<b>1</b>	<b>Does not capitalize the first person pronoun I (i). Use semicolons (;), colons (:), and parenthesis [()] frequently.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Capitalizes many words that aren't proper nouns (Centuries, Feet, Wooden, Ground, etc.) and often uses dashes (-- ) as a period.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Capitalizes many words that aren't proper nouns (Meadows, Mountains, Forests, Motions, etc.) and often uses dashes (-- ) as a period.</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Often uses dashes (-- ) as a period but lacks the unusual use of punctuation and capitalization from texts 1, 2, 3, or 5.</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Does not capitalize the first person pronoun I (i). Use semicolons (;), colons (:), and parenthesis [()] frequently.</b>





# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## Literary Forensics

- [Forensic Linguistic Profiling & What Your Language Reveals About You | Harry Bradford | TEDxStoke](#)



# REFLECTION

Today's learning targets are listed below:

- 1. I can analyze the impact of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling on meaning, tone, and the overall writing style of the author.**

On a scale of 1-5, how confident do you feel with each of today's learning targets?  
What did you struggle on? What did you understand the best?

**1 = I still need to work on it**  
**5 = I know I've mastered it!**