

⚠ Trap answer recognition

✓ Too extreme

- Uses words like *always*, *never*, *completely*, *entirely*
- AP Lit passages are usually nuanced
- If it sounds absolute, be suspicious

✓ True but not relevant

- Factually correct
- Doesn't answer the question being asked
- Tests memory instead of understanding

✓ Sounds good, not supported

- Feels thematic or insightful
- No textual evidence
- If you can't point to the text, eliminate it

✓ Right idea, wrong wording

- Starts near the correct interpretation
- Uses inaccurate verbs, tone, or degree
- Watch for slight distortions

✓ Wrong tone

- Doesn't match the passage's emotional atmosphere
- Often uses exaggerated emotions
- Check diction and imagery

✓ Reversed logic

- Flips cause and effect
- Gets motivation backward
- Double-check relationships between events

✓ Outside the scope

- Introduces ideas not found in the text
- Makes assumptions or predictions
- If the passage doesn't mention it, be cautious

✓ Too vague

- Technically true but says very little
- Lacks specificity
- Correct answers are usually precise

✓ Literalizes figurative language

- Treats metaphors and symbols as literal events
- Always consider figurative meaning first

✓ Partial truth

- Begins with a correct detail
- Adds an unsupported claim
- One wrong piece makes the whole answer wrong

☰ Quick elimination checklist

✓ Too extreme?

✓ Not answering the question?

✓ Unsupported by the text?

✓ Wrong tone?

✓ Reversed cause and effect?

✓ Outside the scope?

✓ Too vague?

✓ Literal interpretation of figurative language?

✓ Only partially correct?

If yes to any of these, eliminate it and move on.