**LITERARY ANALYSIS OTLINE**

**Introduction**

Describe the theatricality of Austen’s works  
Outline the role theater plays in Mansfield Park  
Introduce the [research question](https://www.scribbr.com/research-process/research-questions/): How does Austen use theater to express the characters’ morality in Mansfield Park?

**The frivolous acting scheme**

* Discuss Austen’s depiction of the performance at the end of the first volume
* Discuss how Sir Bertram reacts to the acting scheme

**Stage directions**

* Introduce Austen’s use of stage direction–like details during dialogue
* Explore how these are deployed to show the characters’ self-absorption

**The performance of morals**

* Discuss Austen’s description of Maria and Julia’s relationship as polite
* Compare Mrs. Norris’s self-conceit as charitable despite her idleness

**Conclusion**

Summarize the three themes: The acting scheme, stage directions, and the performance of morals Answer the research question Indicate areas for further study.