

Humanities English: Academic Paragraph Literary Analysis

Instructions: Over the course of the next year, you will spend much time writing academic paragraphs and ultimately, essays. Please note the language we must use and some strategies to use while writing these paragraphs.

TS: **TOPIC SENTENCE:** This is where you introduce the main idea of your paragraph. As you write a literary analysis paragraph, you present the theory you are proving, as well as literary devices/ strategies the author used to develop what you believe to be true.

CX: **CONTEXT:** The context leads the reader into your concrete detail (usually a quotation) fluidly. This is where you let the reader know what is happening in that particular part of the story. It may also be a place to briefly paraphrase the quotation itself, if it makes sense in your writing at that point.

CD: **CONCRETE DETAIL:** This is the evidence—the quotation you have found to help you prove your theory. Before we present the actual quote, we must use a lead-in— The [named] character indeed notices that “. . .” or Some would argue that [such and such], but according to the predictions made by Bradbury, such a house might have “. . .” or All of the individual in the village thought that “. . .”, etc.

CM: **COMMENTARY:** This is your analysis. We want to think deeply about this, asking ourselves the following questions: What does this quote mean? How does it help prove what you are theorizing? What *literary device* does it show, and how does this specifically help move forward the fact that your theory is correct? (Why, specifically, did the author use such a literary device)?

CS: **CONCLUDING SENTENCE:** Tie it all together here. This is where we present the main idea, remind readers of how the story proves the theory, and what techniques the author specifically used.

Helpful hints:

Notice the format: He argues, “Text.”: comma before the quote, capitalize the first word in the quote, & period before end quote.

Always avoid simply repeating the TS.

We always write at least 3 sentences of commentary. Another word for commentary is analysis.
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