

Academic Paragraph Building Template

Directions: Use this template to brainstorm ideas for your academic literary analysis paragraph on the story of your choice.



Topic Sentence: (include Title, in quotes, author, and genre (short story), as well as the overall thing you are trying to prove (in general, one of your theories, but not something blatantly obvious; I helped you with this on Thursday).



Context: Here, provide a brief summary of the story, and also a summary of your quotation coming up.



Concrete detail with lead-in: Choose one of the quotations from Thursday's group worksheet, and make sure the sentence doesn't begin right off the bat with a quotation mark.



Commentary X3, 4, or even 5 (we are so good, we'll shoot for four+ sentences here): Here, you are looking at the quotation just used, and looking for obvious, or sometimes subtle, clues that help point to your theory. I've chosen, for this first one, to examine sentence structure. Try, if possible, to connect a literary device (symbolism, simile, metaphor, poetic language, sentence style, word choice, personification, etc. etc. to help prove your point. If you cannot, *no worries*. I'll help you shape your thoughts when you return. ☺) This comes from your third box on your original chart.



Context: You may want to include this *after* you've chosen your second quotation to help prove your point. That way, context, by way of explaining, in brief, a part of the story where the quotation occurs, is easier to list. Remember, when writing, refer back to ideas made in the previous sentence or two, adding cohesion to your paragraph.



Concrete detail with lead-in:



Commentary X3 or 4 (we are so good, we'll shoot for four sentences here):



Concluding sentence: Here, wrap things up, in a way that leaves the reader feeling satisfied. You can either apply something to the reader, or you can create a cheesy statement about the story.