

Explanatory Essay Format

I. Paragraph One: Introduction

- A. Attention Getter
- B. Universal Statement – connect the attention getter to the thesis.
- C. Thesis statement (includes title, author, character name and character description that describes the character trait)

II. Paragraph Two: Body

- A. Topic Sentence- state the main idea
- B. Background
- C. Evidence
- D. Analysis
- E. Transition, and background
- F. Evidence
- G. Analysis
- H. Concluding Sentence

III. Paragraph Three: Conclusion

- A. Restate Theme Statement Using Different Words
- B. Commentary About Theme use figurative language
- C. Wrap-up

INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH

Attention Getter (Introduce the topic and grab your reader's attention using a famous quotation, or a universal statement about the theme)

Universal Statement (Connect the theme of the literature to the larger world)

Thesis Statement (Title of the literature, author's name, brief character description, and your theme statement)

BODY PARAGRAPH

Topic Sentence (what will your paragraph prove?) _____

Build up (Set the context for the first example of evidence by giving some background information to build up to the ideas in the quotation.) _____

Evidence (Lead into the quotation by introducing what just happened before the moment in the story that the quotation spotlights. Then add the quoted passage from the literature – don't forget MLA citation)) _____

Analysis (Thoughts, insights, analysis of the quotation and how it connects back to the topic sentence! Break up the quotation into parts and explain what is happening what does the example tell you about the character or theme?)

Transition word and Build up (Set the context for the first example of evidence by giving some background information to build up to the ideas in the quotation) _____

Evidence (Lead into the quotation by introducing what just happened before the moment in the story that the quotation spotlights. Then add the quoted passage from the literature – don't forget MLA citation)) _____

Analysis (Thoughts, insights, analysis of the quotation and how it connects back to the topic sentence! Break up the quotation into parts and explain what is happening what does the example tell you about the character or theme?)

Concluding Sentence (final thought; insight, opinion; wraps up your paragraph and leaves your reader with something to think about) _____

CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

Restate Theme (restate theme statement from your thesis in *new, different words*. DO NOT include title and author)

Commentary About Theme (try to use creative, ingenious wording; consider using a simile or metaphor to spice it up)

Wrap it Up (leave your reader with a strong, satisfying sentence; be clear and compelling; you want your readers to be nodding their heads in agreement as they read your final sentence)