

Essay Outline Form

Paragraph 1 (Introductory Paragraph)

(Indent 5 spaces) Use one of the hook forms. No yes or no questions, don't ask me "what is (abstract noun?) or tell me how Webster's defines this noun.

TAG (Title of novel, Author and Genre - - novel, poem, etc...) and a bridge to the thesis

Major Thesis: This is your argument – what you will be proving throughout your paper. All topic sentences, all evidence, all commentary will prove this argument. Literary analysis must state what your paper will prove. For all essays the thesis must be arguable and clearly state what it is you are going to argue.

- The thesis must clearly address the prompt
- The thesis must be a complex sentence; it must include "because" or "although".
- The thesis **MUST BE UNDERLINED**

Paragraph 2 (Body Paragraph #1)

1. (Indent) Topic Sentence. This is a point that proves your thesis. It has a clear subject, evidences the argument (arguable) and focuses on only one subject. **TOPIC SENTENCES MUST NOT BE UNIVERSAL**, they are specific.

2. **Transition/Lead-In.** Sets up the context for your quote. (For example when/in). Make sure you build a full explanation. All context comes BEFORE THE QUOTE, not after. Lead-ins are another ideal place to evidence the argument. They must transition smoothly.

3. **Concrete Detail.** The quote, itself or the “Say”. Must clearly relate to your topic sentence. Include only the part of quote that supports your argument – no filler (include page number at end of quote (in parenthesis):

4. **First Commentary.** THE MEAN. Must focus on and prove your topic sentence. DOES NOT STATE THE OBVIOUS):

5. **Second Commentary.** The deeper commentary or the “Matter” or the “big ideas.” Dig deep here and analyze the quote in terms of the universal meaning, themes, and your thesis. Why is it vital to the novel?

6. **Transitions/Lead-In.** This second quote must build a bridge between the previous “Matter” and sets up the context for your quote. Again, you must relate it to your topic sentence, which relates to your thesis. (“Cisneros furthers the idea of conflicted maturity in the vignette “The Family of Little Feet. When Esperanza, Rachel and Lucy slip on the yellow shoes they are suddenly and dramatically transformed from the innocence of childhood to the power of womanhood”).

7. **Concrete Detail.** The quote, itself or the “Say”. Must be a new point that relates to your topic sentence. Include only the part of quote that supports your argument – no filler (include page number at end of quote (in parenthesis):

8. **First Commentary for Second Concrete Detail.** The “Mean.” Illustrates the second point in proving the topic sentence. DOES NOT STATE THE OBVIOUS.)

9. **Second Commentary.** The deeper commentary or the “Matter” or the “big ideas.” Again stick to your topic, but analyze the quote in terms of the universal meaning, themes, and your thesis. Why is it vital to the novel?

10. **Concluding Sentence** (finishes the topic and draws a conclusion)

Paragraph 3 (Body Paragraph #2)

1. (Indent) Topic Sentence. This is a point that proves your thesis. It has a clear subject, evidences the argument (arguable) and focuses on only one subject. **TOPIC SENTENCES MUST NOT BE UNIVERSAL.** Make sure you include a transitional word or phrase.

2. **Transition/Lead-In.** Sets up the context for your quote. (For example when/in):

3. **Concrete Detail.** The quote, itself or the “Say”. Must clearly relate to your topic sentence. Include only the part of quote that supports your argument – no filler (include page number at end of quote (in parenthesis):

4. **First Commentary.** THE MEAN. Must focus on and prove your topic sentence. DOES NOT STATE THE OBVIOUS):

5. **Second Commentary.** The deeper commentary or the “Matter” or the “big ideas.” Dig deep here and analyze the quote in terms of the universal meaning, themes, and your thesis. Why is it vital to the novel?

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7. **Concrete Detail.** The quote, itself or the “Say”. Must be a new point that relates to your topic sentence. Include only the part of quote that supports your argument – no filler (include page number at end of quote (in parenthesis):

8. **First Commentary for Second Concrete Detail.** The “Mean.” Illustrates the second point in proving the topic sentence. DOES NOT STATE THE OBVIOUS.)

9. **Second Commentary.** The deeper commentary or the “Matter” or the “big ideas.” Again stick to your topic, but analyze the quote in terms of the universal meaning, themes, and your thesis. Why is it vital to the novel?

10. **Concluding Sentence** (finishes the topic and draws a conclusion)

Paragraph 4 (Body Paragraph #3)

1. (Indent) Topic Sentence. This is a point that proves your thesis. It has a clear subject, evidences the argument (arguable) and focuses on only one subject. TOPIC SENTENCES MUST NOT BE UNIVERSAL. Make sure you include a transitional word or phrase.

2. **Transition/Lead-In.** Sets up the context for your quote. (For example when/in):

3. **Concrete Detail.** The quote, itself or the “Say”. Must clearly relate to your topic sentence. Include only the part of quote that supports your argument – no filler (include page number at end of quote (in parenthesis):

4. **First Commentary.** THE MEAN. Must focus on and prove your topic sentence. DOES NOT STATE THE OBVIOUS):

5. **Second Commentary.** The deeper commentary or the “Matter” or the “big ideas.” Dig deep here and analyze the quote in terms of the universal meaning, themes, and your thesis. Why is it vital to the novel?

6. Transitions/Lead-In. This second quote must build a bridge between the previous “Matter” and sets up the context for your quote. Again, you must relate it to your topic sentence, which relates to your thesis. (“Cisneros furthers the idea of conflicted maturity in the vignette “The Family of Little Feet. When Esperanza, Rachel and Lucy slip on the yellow shoes they are suddenly and dramatically transformed from the innocence of childhood to the power of womanhood”).

7. Concrete Detail. The quote, itself or the “Say”. Must be a new point that relates to your topic sentence. Include only the part of quote that supports your argument – no filler (include page number at end of quote (in parenthesis):

8. First Commentary for Second Concrete Detail. The “Mean.” Illustrates the second point in proving the topic sentence. DOES NOT STATE THE OBVIOUS.)

9. Second Commentary. The deeper commentary or the “Matter” or the “big ideas.” Again stick to your topic, but analyze the quote in terms of the universal meaning, themes, and your thesis. Why is it vital to the novel?

10. **Concluding Sentence** (finishes the topic and draws a conclusion)

Paragraph 5 (Body Paragraph #4)

1. (Indent) **Topic Sentence.** This is a point that proves your thesis. It has a clear subject, evidences the argument (arguable) and focuses on only one subject. **TOPIC SENTENCES MUST NOT BE UNIVERSAL.** Make sure you include a transitional word or phrase.

2. **Transition/Lead-In.** Sets up the context for your quote. (For example when/in). Make sure you build a full explanation. All context comes **BEFORE THE QUOTE**, not after. Lead-ins are another ideal place to evidence the argument. They must transition smoothly.

3. **Concrete Detail.** The quote, itself or the “Say”. Must clearly relate to your topic sentence. Include only the part of quote that supports your argument – no filler (include page number at end of quote (in parenthesis):

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7. Concrete Detail. The quote, itself or the “Say”. Must be a new point that relates to your topic sentence. Include only the part of quote that supports your argument – no filler

(include page number at end of quote (in parenthesis):

8. First Commentary for Second Concrete Detail. The “Mean.” Illustrates the second point in proving the topic sentence. DOES NOT STATE THE OBVIOUS.)

9. Second Commentary. The deeper commentary or the “Matter” or the “big ideas.” Again stick to your topic, but analyze the quote in terms of the universal meaning, themes, and your thesis. Why is it vital to the novel?

10. Concluding Sentence (finishes the topic and draws a conclusion)

Paragraph 6 (Body Paragraph #5)

1. (Indent) Topic Sentence. This is a point that proves your thesis. It has a clear subject, evidences the argument (arguable) and focuses on only one subject. TOPIC SENTENCES MUST NOT BE UNIVERSAL. Make sure you include a transitional word or phrase.

2. Transition/Lead-In. Sets up the context for your quote. (For example when/in). Make sure you build a full explanation. All context comes BEFORE THE QUOTE, not after. Lead-ins are another ideal place to evidence the argument. They must transition smoothly.

3. Concrete Detail. The quote, itself or the “Say”. Must clearly relate to your topic sentence. Include only the part of quote that supports your argument – no filler (include page number at end of quote (in parenthesis):

4. First Commentary. THE MEAN. Must focus on and prove your topic sentence. DOES NOT STATE THE OBVIOUS):

5. Second Commentary. The deeper commentary or the “Matter” or the “big ideas.” Dig deep here and analyze the quote in terms of the universal meaning, themes, and your thesis. Why is it vital to the novel?

6. Transitions/Lead-In. This second quote must build a bridge between the previous “Matter” and sets up the context for your quote. Again, you must relate it to your topic sentence, which relates to your thesis. (“Cisneros furthers the idea of conflicted maturity in the vignette “The Family of Little Feet. When Esperanza, Rachel and Lucy slip on the yellow shoes they are suddenly and dramatically transformed from the innocence of childhood to the power of womanhood”).

7. Concrete Detail. The quote, itself or the “Say”. Must be a new point that relates to your topic sentence. Include only the part of quote that supports your argument – no filler (include page number at end of quote (in parenthesis):

8. First Commentary for Second Concrete Detail. The “Mean.” Illustrates the second point in proving the topic sentence. DOES NOT STATE THE OBVIOUS.)

9. **Second Commentary.** The deeper commentary or the “Matter” or the “big ideas.” Again stick to your topic, but analyze the quote in terms of the universal meaning, themes, and your thesis. Why is it vital to the novel?

10. **Concluding Sentence** (finishes the topic and draws a conclusion)

Paragraph 7 (Concluding Paragraph)

1. (Indent) Revisit and reinvent your argument. Rephrase thesis in a new way. DON'T REPEAT. Show the wisdom of your argument. SHOW THE LEARNING. (avoid clichéd endings like “in conclusion”, “all in all”, “finally”

2. Clincher: Revisit the way you started your intro paragraph (can reverse order with summary statement). If you asked a question, answer it, if you used a quote, explain how your argument sheds a new light on it. If you used an analogy, reshape the analogy to show how the situation would be different if your argument were to come to pass.
