

Essay Writing

Pointers

The Thesis Comes First!

- Understand the topic/ what is the prompt asking you to explore?
- Brainstorm everything you know about this topic.
- Look for patterns and insights into your topic based on the brainstormed points.
- Determine your subtopics THEN create a working thesis.

Revise Your Thesis

- Once you have a working thesis and three subtopics, **pick out all of your points and quotes for proof.**
- **Evaluate your thesis**: does it match these points and proofs and does it meet the expectations of the 4S's?

Create a chart to outline your ideas to make sure that you have :

- a pattern in your body that meets the needs of the thesis

For Ex.

1. Cause and Effect

(Thesis: **fear leads to the suppression of the superego in the human psyche because...**)

PPC1 = Cause : example of fear (boys talk about the beast)

PPC 2= Effect: the result on the superego (piggy is ignored)

Continue this for
three body
paragraphs



2. Comparative

(Thesis: **Lord of the Flies is a political allegory which explores the effects of fear experienced during the Cold War**)

PPC = effects of fear in the novel

PPC = Comparable effects of fear in the cold war (must be referenced)

3. Progressive Argument or Chronological Argument

(**Golding uses garment imagery to explore the progression of savagery that occurs in boys when there is no adult supervision present**)

body 1 = two ppc's to show innocence; body 2 = two ppc's to show temptation to be savage; body 3 = two ppc's to show savagery

The Essay

Introductory Paragraph

Lead, Link, Plan Of Development, Thesis

Types of Introductions - #1

Funnel Introduction:



BODY

Subtopic, Point, Proof, Comment, Transition, Point, Proof, Comment, Connection

OR

LITERARY PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE USING INTEGRATED QUOTES

CONCLUSION

summarize the argument and then write a concluding statement

Sample Lead

Each individual endures life and its hardships uniquely, and this unique experience is often referred to as a hero's journey (Campbell, 1975). Authors have used this journey as the central conflict to drive the plots of such great literature as *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *Macbeth*. William Golding was inspired by this concept of the hero's journey when he wrote *The Lord of the Flies* after witnessing the horrors of war. He was intrigued by man's journey to overcome his animalistic desires for power. *In **Lord of the Flies**, Golding uses symbolism to represent the journey of mankind to be ruled by rational thought rather than an impulsive desire for power. This is evident through list the three subtopics*

Plan of Development

- Identify the subtopics in the order in which they will appear in the body.
- Go beyond the organizational statement from previous years and write at least one full sentence for each subtopic or a big idea that represents all three subtopics (as seen in the previous slide)

Sample POD

- Thesis: In *The Old Man and the Sea* Hemingway employs rhetorical devices to create an allegorical study; an understanding of these devices provides insight into how Santiago's quest is a metaphor for the journey of life.
- POD: First, Hemingway employs contrast to demonstrate the pathos behind an aging man's loss of physical power. Furthermore, symbols lend a fresh interpretation of the injustice of an arbitrary world. Finally, there are allusions to Christ's journey throughout the text to exemplify the old man's struggle to endure life's hardships.

The Body

- Make sure you have balance! (as discussed in slide 4)
- Use double PPC or start developing your own style using integrated quotes.
- Introduce quotes effectively...
- Follow MLA formatting rules

Body Paragraphs

- Subtopic
- point, proof comment
- transition
- point, proof, comment
- final connection to the thesis



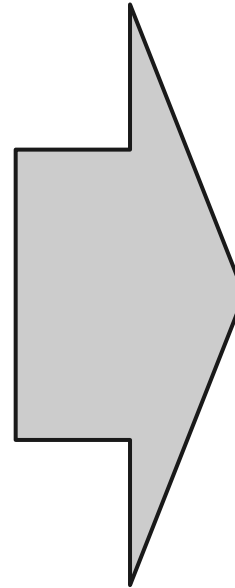
This is all in one paragraph. To do this in Grade 12 can be difficult because the paragraph can become too long. To maintain one paragraph, you may use integrated quotes.

OR

Body Paragraphs

- Subtopic
- point, proof, comment

- Transition
- Rephrase the subtopic
- point, proof, comment
- final connection to the thesis



In this situation, the writer uses a new paragraph for each point because he/she does not want the paragraph to be too lengthy.

You may still use integrated quotes with this approach

Introducing Quotes

Options:

- Integrated quotes (quote is written as part of the sentence)
- An independent clause prior to the quote calls for a colon before the quote. **Ex.**
Golding's use of animal imagery is evident when Jack paints his face to conceal his innocence: "quote"(8).
- A phrase or tag line introduces the quote:
Jack appears savage when he argues, "quote!"(6).

Analyzing Quotes

For every quote, you must do the following:

1. Identify the stylistic device or element of fiction present.
2. Tell how this creates a connotative message in the reader's mind.
3. Explain how that message supports the central argument in the topic sentence (which ultimately supports the thesis).

Sample Level 3 Analysis: More mechanical PPC

In chapter one of *The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger uses symbolism to demonstrate how an identity crisis leads to depression. First, Salinger introduces the reader to Holden's identity crisis when Holden says, "you were supposed to commit suicide or something if old Pencey didn't win...I was standing way the hell up on top of Thomson Hall, right next to this crazy cannon that was in the Revolutionary War and all. You could see the whole field from there..practically the whole school except me was there..."(2). The fact that he says, "the whole school except me" indirectly characterizes Holden as isolated from his social group, which symbolizes his inability to conform. Next, when he states, "you were supposed to commit suicide", he indicates that students are expected to metaphorically give their lives in support of the school through its athletics. In comparing giving one's life up to support the university, Holden makes the reader imagine that to join this clique means to die as an individual. Holden's inability to conform along with his views on conforming being synonymous with dying reveals that he feels unsure about how his identity fits with the aims of society, which is by definition an identity crisis.. This results in depression...

**See next slide and/or your
Literary Paragraph Handout
for a Level 4: Integrated
quotes with added quotes and
individual style development
that still maintains the
necessary ingredients.**

Level 4

In chapter one of *The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger uses symbolism to demonstrate that an identity crisis results in depression **because** the individual is unable to conform with society. First, on the second page of the text, Holden is standing at the top of a hill “next to this crazy cannon that was in the Revolutionary War”. The fact that he is standing beside the cannon **symbolizes his revolt against mainstream society: the football game attended by all of his classmates**. He acknowledges that “practically the whole school” is attending the game “except me”, which is **indirect characterization to suggest that he recognizes his self-imposed isolation**. Additionally, his comment that “It was the last game of the year, and you were supposed to commit suicide or something if old Pencey didn’t win” (2) indicates that he believes students are expected to **metaphorically give their lives in support of the school through its athletics**, which is **symbolic of his fear that he will lose his identity if he conforms to societal standards**. **Consequently, Holden’s actions of purposely separating himself and his fears of losing himself if he conforms symbolizes his identity crisis, which is defined as “a period of uncertainty and confusion in which a person's sense of identity becomes insecure, typically due to a change in their expected role in society” (Oxford) ... this continues on...**

Meeting MLA Expectations

Let's look at the handout ...

- title identification
- formal tone
- title page expectations
- reference all quotes with in-text citations:
author's last name (in the first quote) and the
page number, (Golding, 8).
- in - text citations for short vs. long quotes
- works cited page