

1

Biography/Synopsis Paragraph

- Strong opening line about the author
- smooth flow between ideas (don't jump from one idea to the next without transitions)
- Biographical information is relevant and interesting
- One quote from the biographical source
- Quote cited correctly using MLA in-text citation format
- 4 to 5 sentence relevant plot summary of the story
- 12 to 15 sentences total

2

Introductory Paragraph

- Transitional sentence to thesis/introductory paragraph is strong
- Thesis statement that is strong and clear
- General quote from the literary criticism correctly cited
- Preview the three sub topics. Each has its own sentence and is clearly distinguishable. The subtopics are in the order in which they will be written about in the paper
- Closing sentence
- 10 to 12 sentences total

3

Body Paragraph #1

- Clear topic sentence that relates back to the thesis and begins this MP
- Strong supporting examples and details
- Strong supporting example from non-fiction piece
- Strong overall flow with transitions used between examples
- Quotes are set up and led into by setting the scene
- Quotes are explained sufficiently without saying "this quote means."
- At least one primary source quote (the text) cited correctly
- At least one secondary quote source (the literary criticism) cited correctly
- At least one quote from non-fiction piece
- Balance between quotes and student words (25% quote, 75% student writing)
- Closing sentence that wraps up MP1
- 10 to 15 sentences

4

Body Paragraph #2

- Clear topic sentence that relates back to the thesis and begins this MP
- Strong supporting examples and details
- Strong supporting example from non-fiction piece
- Strong overall flow with transitions used between examples
- Quotes are set up and led into by setting the scene
- Quotes are explained sufficiently without saying "this quote means."
- At least one primary source quote (the text) cited correctly
- At least one secondary quote source (the literary criticism) cited correctly
- At least one quote from non-fiction piece
- Balance between quotes and student words (25% quote, 75% student writing)
- Closing sentence that wraps up MP2
- 10 to 15 sentences

5

Body Paragraph #3

- Clear topic sentence that relates back to the thesis and begins this MP
 - Strong supporting examples and details
 - Strong supporting example from non-fiction piece
 - Strong overall flow with transitions used between examples
 - Quotes are set up and led into by setting the scene
 - Quotes are explained sufficiently without saying “this quote means.”
 - At least one primary source quote (the text) cited correctly
 - At least one secondary quote source (the literary criticism) cited correctly
 - At least one quote from non-fiction piece
 - Balance between quotes and student words (25% quote, 75% student writing)
 - Closing sentence that wraps up MP2
- 10 to 15 sentences

6

Conclusion

- transition from the last body paragraph
- a stronger, more emphatic and detailed version of your thesis
- how your view of the primary text should change my mind about it or confirm a previously held view
- final words (so what? why is this important?) that emphasize the result of the ideas in the essay.
- Include a quote about or from the story that is cited correctly and ties in with you main idea of the essay.