

Introduction Paragraph

1. **Attention Getter:** the first sentence of your introduction that gives a broad overview of your topic. This could be an interesting fact, quote, a theme statement, etc. This should **never be a question!** Do not make it so general that it only barely connects to the topic.
2. **Background information:** 4-5 sentences in which you summarize the background information about the topic. For instance, if you are writing about a book, you would need to give a quick summary as if the reader has never read that book before. If you are relating to the theme, you would have to explain what the theme is and what it means in relation to the story. Do not use any quotes here from the story or get too specific. That is what your body paragraphs will do.
3. **Thesis Statement:** the final sentence of your introduction that includes the following: the title of the book, the argument of your paper, and the supporting details of that argument. An example could be: "In *Of Mice and Men*, isolation is the primary theme and is scene within the characters of Candy, Crooks, and Curley's wife." Here my argument is that isolation is the most important theme, and the characters that show the theme are my supporting details.

Body Paragraphs

1. **Transition:** this is where you connect the paragraph before with the paragraph you are starting. This is where you use transition words such as: however, in addition, also, hence, though, etc.
2. **Topic Sentence:** this is the sentence where you essentially state the thesis for the paragraph. This sentence should always, always, always connect to the thesis. For instance, one of my topic sentences could be, "The theme of isolation is mostly shown in the character of Candy." Use your thesis' supporting details to formulate your topic sentence.
3. **Primary Support:** this is the example/quote used to back your argument. The quotes should connect to the thesis. Quotes should not be very vague and should always have an introduction and a citation. NO NAKED QUOTES!
4. **Analysis:** these are the 2-3 sentences in which you explain how your quote relates to your argument. Usually, it is a good idea to start the analysis with something like, "This quote/example shows the theme of isolation because..."
5. **Secondary Support:** This is the second quote/example that defends the SAME point! You do not move on to a new topic, but give additional proof for the topic that you wrote in your topic sentence.
6. **Analysis:** these are 2-3 sentences in which you explain how your quote relates to your argument. Usually, it is a good idea to start the analysis with something like, "This quote/example shows the theme of isolation because..."
7. **Concluding Statement:** the last sentence of your paragraph that concisely summarizes the argument of the paragraph. This could look something like, "Clearly as cited, Candy demonstrates this theme through his disability."

Conclusion Paragraph

1. **Restatement of thesis:** this should be the first sentence of your conclusion. You use the same ideas from your thesis in your introduction, but use a different phrasing. DO NOT just copy and paste your thesis from your introduction.
2. **Overview of main ideas:** this should be 2-3 sentences that summarize the arguments from your paper. Do not introduce any new ideas or new examples. Simply give an overview of what you talked about in your paper.
3. **'So what' aspect:** the final 2-3 sentences of your paper where you connect the ideas you wrote about to the reader and to the world. This is where you explain how your ideas relate to real life situations or why your topic is important.