

Topic Sentence

States the main point to be argued/proved in the paragraph. For example: Beowulf has all of the characteristics of a hero for good over evil.

Major Support

What are you trying to prove/show by using this quote or evidence? Focuses on one important aspect of the topic. For example: To begin, Beowulf, the strongest human being in Anglo-Saxon Poetry, has already defeated many evil monsters.

Transition

A word or phrase used to logically connect two or more ideas, sentences, or paragraphs.

To indicate a time order: when, while, first, to begin (with), as, at the same time, during, meanwhile, now, after that, afterwards, next, later, finally, moreover, until

To indicate description: above, across from, also, beyond, further

To indicate similar ideas: similarly, and, in addition, another, also, then, again, further, furthermore, besides, likewise, moreover

To contrast two ideas: however, in contrast, yet, on the other hand, on the contrary, or, nor, still, nevertheless

To point up an example: for example, for instance, to be specific, namely, that is

To point out a conclusion, result: thus, so, therefore, for this reason, consequently, (cause-effect relationship) as a result, in other words, accordingly, because, hence, since, to sum up

Concrete Detail

A specific reference to a particular event or detail in the literature. For example: Hrothgar welcomes Beowulf to Herot by decreeing a toast to his honor and victories.

Context

What's happening in the story that will help the reader understand the quote? Introduces the quotation or concrete detail. Informs the reader where in the story the quotation occurs. For example: The jealous Unferth, a Dane, confronts Beowulf about his boasting, stating that Beowulf is merely a braggart and a fool. Beowulf defends himself by relating an unbelievably adventurous battle that takes place beneath the sea:

Quotation

A passage copied exactly from another text, enclosed in quotation marks, and cited properly. "I fought that beast's last battle, / left it floating lifeless in the sea" (290-291).

Analysis

Remind the reader how this quote/evidence proves your Major, Topic Sentence, and Thesis. Make connections within the work, to other literature, and/or to real life. For example: Beowulf boldly confronts a Dane surrounded by local warriors and relates an amazing strength that allows him to swim beneath the ocean in a mail shirt and slay a clawed monster which attacks him. Other heroes of ancient literature have displayed similar strengths. For instance,

Odysseus pokes out the Cyclops' eye, and Gilgamesh defeats Akka of Kish, son of Enmebaragesi. Modern day heroes, like firefighters and athletes, also exhibit comparable strengths by rescuing victims surrounded by danger or leading their team to victory against a stalwart foe.

Concluding or Transitional Sentence

A sentence that concludes each body paragraph; should restate topic sentence idea and can transition into new idea of next body paragraph. A concluding or transitional sentence can also be placed at the end of the introduction. For example: Strength is important to a society that maintains peace through treaties and displays of physical power. By defeating sea monsters, fighting with his bare hands, and honoring treaties, Beowulf exemplifies the hero of the Anglo-Saxon time period. Scops and bards would sing *Beowulf* to describe to an audience of peasant farmers and warriors the ideal soldier of an Anglo-Saxon kingdom.