

## The 5-Paragraph Literary Essay

### **Introductory Paragraph:**

- 1st sentence: broad sentence that **connects to the topic**
  - Rhetorical Question
  - Quotation from outside source
  - Your own thoughts
  - Definition
- 2nd sentence: **explain** sentence 1 (ie. broad sentence) in your own words
- Thesis: Your most important sentence!!!
  - You state the **argument** that you are going to be proving/ supporting for the rest of the essay
  - MUST include title of the novel (underlined), AND name the author
  - \*\*\*Ensure you're not writing a summary, but, rather, supporting an argument
- Blueprint: In a complete sentence, list your 3 supports (which will be developed in your body paragraphs)
- Concluding sentence: refer back to thesis

**Body Paragraphs (x3):** (middle point, weakest point, strongest point)

- **Topic sentence:**
  - Transition word (first, second, third)
  - State **WHAT** the paragraph is going to be about and **HOW** it connects to the thesis
  - I.e. **POINT**
- **PROOF:** about 2 sentences
  - Introduce a quote from the text that supports this topic sentence
  - Insert quote
    - Eg. This is demonstrated in a conversation between Nick and Gatsby: “ .....” (Fitzgerald 130).
    - If you are quoting dialogue:
      - : “ .....” (Fitzgerald 130-131).
    - If quoting multiple points on page:
      - : “ quote quote quote [...] quote quote quote” (Fitzgerald 15).
- **COMMENT:** 1-2 sentences
  - Analyze
  - Explain how the quote you have provided works to support your thesis

**Concluding Paragraph:** mirrors intro paragraph

- Transition statement (eg. In conclusion, To Sum up)
- Restate thesis (different words than in intro)
  - Restate title (underlined)
  - Restate name of author
- Restate blueprint
- Concluding sentence: clincher
  - Rhetorical question
  - General but interesting statement that leaves your reader thinking