

THE ESSAY WRITING PROCESS AND ESSENTIAL LITERARY ELEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH

- ◉ Intro consists of at least 4 sentences

- ◉ Sentences:

1. Grabber - Gets the attention of the reader.

- ◉ YOUR GRABBER IS NOT YOUR THESIS STATEMENT!!!

- ◉ “Yes, true love is possible” is a thesis not a grabber!!!

- ◉ Types of Grabbers:

- A. Serious, straight forward broad statement

- B. Dramatic or eye opening statement or statistic

- C. Funny story or anecdote

- D. Thought provoking or rhetorical question

- ◉ DO NOT ASK THE READER ANY 1st PERSON QUESTIONS - EVER!!!

- ◉ Example: “What do you think....?” , “What would you do...?” , etc.

- E. Appropriate Quote

- ◉ From the author

- ◉ From the text/literature

- ◉ From an expert in your topic

INTRO PARAGRAPH CONT'D

Sentence Number...

2. Development of the Grabber

- Connects the grabber to the thesis
- Explain what your grabber is referring to/ why it's important

3. Thesis Statement

- One sentence which states the topic and your point of view.
- “Yes, true love is possible” is your thesis.

4. Plan of Development (P.O.D.)

- One sentence which presents, in order, your 3 supporting/body paragraphs that support your thesis.

THREE SUPPORTING PARAGRAPHS

- Each paragraph will have the following qualities:
 1. Topic Sentence (1st Sentence)
 - One sentence which begins with a transition and includes the thesis and the point from the P.O.D.
 2. Supporting Sentences (Sentences 2-7)
 - A specific number of sentences which:
 - Explains
 - Provides Examples
 - Clarifies
 - Details
 - ...the topic sentence
 3. Concluding Sentence
 - One sentence at the end of the paragraph which restates the topic sentence.
 - This restates your thesis and point from P.O.D.

THREE SUPPORTING PARAGRAPHS CONT'D

- A **GOOD** Supporting Paragraph **WILL** contain **AT LEAST** 8 sentences!!!
- The order of these sentences are as follows:
 1. Topic Sentence
 2. First reason sentence
 3. Details for first reason sentence
 - Detail sentences explain in more detail your reason sentence or give examples.
 - If doing a research paper this is where you would put your evidence.
 4. Second reason sentence
 5. Details for second reason
 6. Third reason sentence
 7. Details for third reason
 8. Concluding Sentence

TRANSITIONS

- ◉ Connect paragraphs and ideas together
- ◉ Show that the speaker is moving on the next point.
- ◉ A transition **MUST** be at the beginning of each supporting paragraph **AND** at the beginning of your “Reason Sentences”.

CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

○ Has at **LEAST** four sentences!

1. Restate the thesis

- One sentence that restates the thesis and begins with a transition.
“In conclusion, true love is possible...”
- To reword your conclusion so that it doesn’t sound redundant you may want to use a thesaurus.

2. Summary of P.O.D.

- One sentence that simply restates the P.O.D.
- “Like Romeo and Juliet, true love is possible because **Reason 1, Reason 2, & Reason 3.**”

3. Opposing View Point

- One sentence that states what the opposition would say about your topic.

4. Universal Application

- One sentence that provides:
 - Solution to your topic/issue
 - Importance of your topic
 - Lesson to be learned from your topic

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- ◉ **DO NOT WRITE IN THE FIRST PERSON!!**
 - No “I” or “you”
 - Unless the teacher/prompt gives you permission - “In your opinion”
- ◉ **Do not use contractions**
 - Can’t = cannot
 - Don’t = do not
 - He’ll = he will
 - Etc...
- ◉ **Mr. Wang’s Rule of Three:**
 1. Your thesis must be supported by THREE reasons
 2. Your topic sentences/reasons must be supported by THREE reasons (Reason Sentences)
- ◉ **Obviously use proper English and Grammar**
 - Absolutely no:
 - “Text Talk”
 - Slang
 - Short hand/Abbreviations
 - “You” is spelled y-o-u not “u”

FORMAT

- ◉ Double Space ENTIRE essay.
- ◉ 12 point Times Roman Font
- ◉ MUST have a heading
 - Top Left Corner
 - Your Name
 - Wangelin
 - English 9
 - Date
- ◉ Title
 - Double Space
 - Center
 - Follow Rules of Capitalization

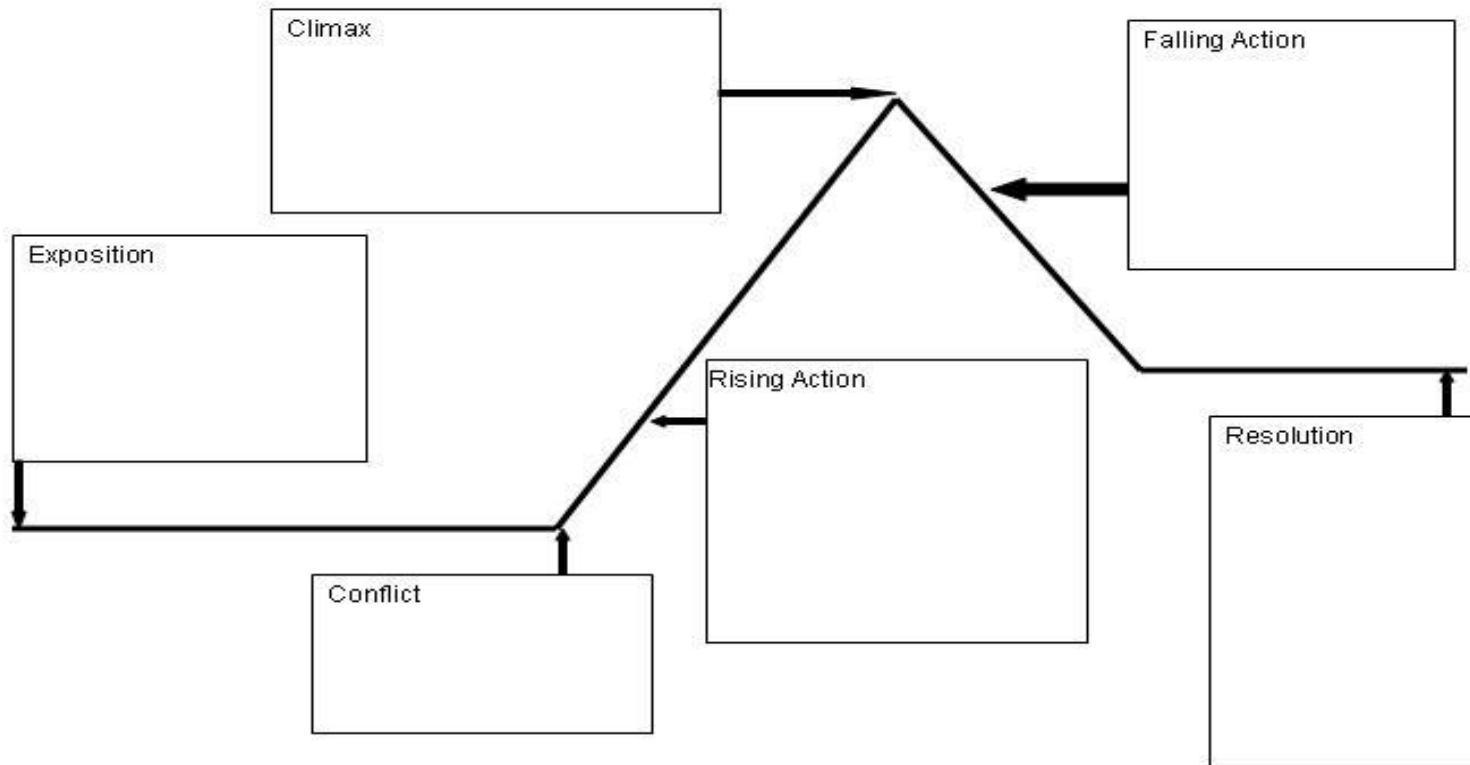
ESSENTIAL LITERARY ELEMENTS

- Plot - the sequence of events in a story. Revolves around a conflict.
 - Exposition - sets the tone, establishes setting, introduces characters, and gives important background information.
 - Rising Action - Action prior to the climax. Adding complications or expand the conflict.
 - Falling Action - The events after the climax. Ties up loose ends.
 - Climax - Emotional intensity hits its peak. Highest point of action.
 - Hint: One way to identify the climax is when the main character has to make a decision that changes the outcome of the story.
 - Resolution - The conclusion or ending of the story. What happened?

FREYTAG'S PYRAMID

Title: _____

Freytag's Pyramid



ESSENTIAL LITERARY ELEMENTS

CONT'D

- ◉ Setting - Time and place of the story
- ◉ Conflict - Struggle between opposing forces
 - External - Character vs. outside force
 - Internal - Character battles within himself
 - Four types of conflicts:
 - Man vs. Man
 - Man vs. Nature
 - Man vs. Society
 - Man vs. Himself
- ◉ Theme - The main idea in fiction, not always stated directly. (The lesson to be learned from the novel)

ESSENTIAL LITERARY ELEMENTS

CONT'D

- ◉ Character Development - How a character changes from the beginning to the end of a story.
- ◉ Mood - The feeling or atmosphere of a story.
- ◉ Tone - The attitude a writer takes
 - Funny/Serious
- ◉ Author's Purpose - Why the author wrote the story.
 - Express
 - Inform
 - Persuade
 - Entertain
- ◉ Point of View - The point of view of the narrator.
 - 1st person - Narrator is in the story
 - Can only see, hear, feel, what they perceive
 - Cannot read/hear thoughts
 - 3rd person - Narrator is not in the story and tells the story as it is perceived.
 - 3rd person omniscient - Narrator is “God like” - Knows all, sees all

LITERARY ELEMENTS

- ◉ **Antagonist-** The character whom **opposes** the main character.
- ◉ **Protagonist-** The main character in a drama or other literary work; usually seen as the hero.
- ◉ **Fiction-** Novels and stories that describe imaginary people and events.
- ◉ **Nonfiction-** Story told with factual information. (Real)

LITERARY ELEMENTS

- **Personification**- A figure of speech in which inanimate objects or abstractions are endowed with human qualities or are represented as possessing human form
- **Symbolism**- when certain special figures, characters, objects or marks are used to suggest something else. Usually an idea, thought, or abstract thing. (*Example- The American flag symbolizes liberty, freedom, and strength.*)