

Character Analysis Writing Guide

I. Introduction

- a. Hook your reader into your paper.
- b. Introduce the book and author
- c. Introduce the character
- d. Thesis: one sentence opinion statement that your ENTIRE paper will examine.
Remember - this needs to challenge the reader to be convinced by your argument.

II. Body Paragraph #1 topic _____

- a. CLAIM/Topic Sentence. It must be directly related to the THESIS
- b. Evidence - Direct or Indirect Quote with description from the text (use at least one to two specific references to the text in each body paragraph)
 - 1.
 - 2.
- c. Explanation - How does your evidence/quote clearly relates to your topic and proves your claim? For instance, how does this example from the text show character change?

II. Body Paragraph #2 topic _____

- a. CLAIM/Topic Sentence. It must be directly related to the THESIS
- b. Evidence - Direct or Indirect Quote with description from the text (use at least one to two specific references to the text in each body paragraph)

1.

2.

c. Explanation - How does your evidence/quote clearly relate to your topic and prove your claim? For instance, how does this example from the text show character change?

II. Body Paragraph #3 topic _____

a. CLAIM/Topic Sentence. It must be directly related to the THESIS

b. Evidence - Direct or Indirect Quote with description from the text (use at least one to two specific references to the text in each body paragraph)

1.

2.

c. Explanation - How does your evidence/quote clearly relate to your topic and prove your claim? For instance, how does this example from the text show character change?

V. Conclusion (choose at least one of these)

What your conclusion should do:

- a. **Answer the question "So What?"** Show your readers why this paper was important. Show them that your paper was meaningful and useful.
- b. **Synthesize, don't summarize** Don't simply repeat things that were in your paper. They have read it. Show them how the points you made and the support and examples you used were not random, but fit together.
- c. **Redirect your readers** Give your reader something to think about, perhaps a way to use your paper in the "real" world. If your introduction went from general to specific, make your conclusion go from specific to general. Think globally.

- d. **Create a new meaning** You don't have to give new information to create a new meaning. By demonstrating how your ideas work together, you can create a new picture. Often the sum of the paper is worth more than its parts.

Strategies for conclusions:

- e. **Echoing the introduction:** Echoing your introduction can be a good strategy if it is meant to bring the reader full-circle. If you begin by describing a scenario, you can end with the same scenario as proof that your essay was helpful in creating a new understanding.
- f. **Challenging the reader:** By issuing a challenge to your readers, you are helping them to redirect the information in the paper, and they may apply it to their own lives.
- g. **Looking to the future:** Looking to the future can emphasize the importance of your paper or redirect the readers' thought process. It may help them apply the new information to their lives or see things more globally.

REMEMBER: No first person. Show, don't tell. Do not do a plot summary, besides first paragraph and then only what is necessary to understand your analysis.