

FIVE PARAGRAPH ESSAYS
Writing Body and Conclusion Paragraphs
Carp's Class

I. Purpose

The purpose of the body paragraphs in a five-paragraph essay is to provide “proof” for the thesis claim. Using POWER LANGUAGE from your thesis claim in your topic claims and closers, the reader comes away with a clear understanding of your view of the argument and adds unity to your work. The body and conclusion paragraphs will be written using present tense verbs and will be 5-7 sentences in length. Each body paragraph will have at least one spliced quote and citation.

II. Key Terminology

1. Topic Claims (3) - Each topic claim is one of your arguments proving your thesis claim using POWER LANGUAGE from your thesis claim.
2. Support Sentences- These sentences “support” the topic claim of the paragraph. They are used to set up or explain a “...spliced quote” (38) from the text. “A support sentence will NEVER be a quote that stands alone as a sentence of its own” (38). (Like this one!!!)
3. Citations- Cite page numbers for quotations “...with the comma or period going outside the citation” (42). (At least one spliced quote per body paragraph).
4. Standard Format: State (your first argument using POWER LANGUAGE from the thesis statement) –Set Up (your quote) – Use (your spliced quote) – Explain (your quote) – Close (using topic sentence POWER LANGUAGE).
5. Closers- This is the last sentence of the body paragraph that paraphrases the topic sentences using POWER LANGUAGE.

III. Example

In the novel *Ordinary People* by Judith Guest, many fictional characters display personality traits reflective of real life. These characters come alive with such emotions as happiness, sadness, or anger. Ultimately, these emotions directly affect the personal interactions between most of the characters. Conrad Jarrett, one of the main characters, encounters various similar emotions, which may strengthen or weaken his relationships with other people. In this novel, Conrad experiences many emotions that are both hostile and loving as he interacts with other characters.

First, Conrad and his mother, Beth, become hostile toward each other as the plot develops. During an intense argument over Conrad's unknown whereabouts, Conrad angrily exclaims, “I'm sure I would have told you if I thought you gave a damn” (90). In response, Beth states, “I will not be manipulated by you, ever!” (91). Throughout the

entire novel, Beth resents Conrad's life and Jordan's death (her other son). This emotional hostility is never quite revealed until the two actually clash in this argument.

Next, Dr. Berger, Conrad's psychologist, gives loving assistance to Conrad in his "return" to society following his brother's death. To Conrad, Berger is one of the few individuals who seems to care and believe in him. For example, Berger gives Conrad great advice, which helps relieve the emotional burden Conrad must endure every day. Conrad acknowledges this advice by saying, "I never could have survived this event without your constant wisdom" (185). This is a perfect example of a loving relationship that Conrad experiences.

Finally, Conrad's dad, Calvin, also provides his son with the love and support he needs. For instance, Calvin is the only parent who visits Conrad in the hospital. In one bedside exchange, Conrad tells Calvin, "I love you, Dad, no matter what, and that is all you need to hear today" (112). As Calvin hears these poignant words, he is moved to tears. This statement of unconditional love from son to father is another example of the critical love that Conrad receives throughout the novel.

Even though Conrad Jarrett finds hostility in some relationships in the novel, he finds peace and love in others. Depending on his emotional state, Conrad may feel anger toward Beth, gratefulness for Dr. Berger, or love for his father. Each of these interactions is a mirror of real life as most people feel these same emotions in various relationships. In this case, Conrad's emotions clearly reflect a young man in conflict as he deals with the death of his brother. One can only wonder how Conrad might have developed as a character if he only encountered hostile relationships in this novel.

Multiple Paragraph Essays

Writing Conclusions

Carp's Class

I. Purpose

The purpose of the conclusion paragraph is to close the essay using a review style and leaving the reader with some "food for thought." It is conceptually shaped as a regular triangle and should be 5-7 sentences long.

II. Key Terminology

- 1) Paraphrasing the thesis claim
- 2) Paraphrasing the body arguments
- 3) Philosophical Addition: a STATEMENT NOT A QUESTION that makes the reader think or ponder deeper meanings ☺