

English 11

April 25, 2018

Things that you need for this essay

1. Choose ONE of the essay topics
2. Do you understand it?
3. Do you know how to write a thesis statement?
4. Do you know how to structure your essay?
5. Do you know what verb tense to use?
6. Do you know how to integrate quotes properly?

How people deal with difficult life situations

- Choose ONE character that you want to discuss
- Yes, you can refer to other characters as a contrast to the one you are focusing on in your essay
- Think about what change he or she undergoes in the novel
- This change or these changes need to be significant → **there is no point in writing an essay about someone who never ate carrots but is okay eating them now *for no significant reason***
- Think about what your character has had to endure and how he or she encounters challenges

Ideology and its effect on people

- Do you know what an ideology is?
- Think about whether or not your novel is the author's response to political ideology around the time that the work was published.
- In what way does ideology affect people? Who benefits? Who doesn't benefit?
- Can ideology cause people to change the way they think? Why would this happen?
- You can choose three characters who react differently to the ideology

- You might want to go back and do a rough plot pyramid to figure out the course of events → this will also help you plan on which events to discuss in your essay
- Choose THREE events to act as your body paragraphs
- Normally, you're encouraged to organise your body paragraphs in order of most important > least important > second most important, but you need to follow the way your character changes in the novel, so stay linear with the plot
- USE TRANSITIONS between paragraphs

Transitions

Imagine the following:

... Belle is against the idea of being held captive and struggles to adapt to the cold stone castle. The staff restrict her from exploring and she is forced to accompany the Beast at meals.

She... Belle changes further and notices the Beast's more human side.

Transitions

All you need is a clause to help you transition. Use SWABI conjunctions listed on that handout I gave you ages ago.

Transition at the beginning of new body paragraphs.

... Belle is against the idea of being held captive and struggles to adapt to the cold stone castle. The staff restrict her from exploring and she is forced to accompany the Beast at meals.

While Belle initially has a difficult time living as the Beast's captive, she changes further and notices the Beast's more human side. For example, she...

Back to the thesis statement!

- You should have done this several times in the course of your time in high school, but here it is again:
- Your thesis is YOUR answer to my question. Your answer needs to be specific enough that it shows me your understanding but not so specific that it limits your ability to expand your explanation
- Your thesis should also include a “road map” of what you’re going to discuss in your essay

What does the thesis look like? >> NOT THIS!

- Author uses character to show what it feels like to be lonely.
 - Your teacher says, “So? What *does* it feel like to be lonely?”
- Author discusses the impact of communism.
 - Your teacher says, “What is this impact? Communism has a ton of trickle-down effects.”
- Character is strange, sarcastic, yet lonely.
 - Your teacher says, “Okay, but this isn’t a character analysis and that isn’t a thesis either.”
- Author demonstrates that totalitarian regimes only hurt people in the end.
 - Your teacher says, “Yeah, no kidding. How, though?”

Better options

- Author uses character to show readers that it is possible to overcome grief through method 1, method 2, and method 3.
 - Your teacher says, “Okay, good. I can expect that body P1 will be about method 1 and so on.”
 - Your body paragraphs have to show examples from the text of these methods, though.
- Author demonstrates that ideology affects people in way 1, way 2, and way 3.
 - Same comment as above.

Structure and some other miscellaneous things

- Obviously you need structure: that's part of your mark
- Make sure you transition between IDEAS and paragraphs, too.
- Organise your body paragraph points in ways that explain the impact of your thesis.
- USE THE LITERARY PRESENT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR NOVEL!!!
- Novel titles are *italicised* when typing and underlined if handwritten

Integrating quotes

- Refer to that handout I gave a long time ago.
- Simple reminders:
- **Don't just leave a quote there.**
 - Belle realises that the Beast is more human than she previously thought. “He seems kinder these days” (#). → INTEGRATE!!
- **Don't tell me what the quote means.**
 - “He seems kinder these days” (#), which means that Belle notices that the Beast is more human-like.