Suggestions For Writing An Essay
Martini Glass Style
Introduction

Broad, General Statements

Bridge

Background

Thesis

Specific

3 - 4 sentences
Body Paragraphs

How to write the paragraph

Go to Martini Glass
Conclusion

- Sentences 1, 2, 3, 4
- Sentence 5-10

Go to Martini Glass
Broad, General Statements

• Sentences # 1, 2, and 3:

• Start essay with 3 to 4 broad, general statements that are in some way related to the thesis of your paper

• Relate the essay’s opening statements to real world issues

Back to “Introduction”
• **Sentence # 4:**
  
  • Connect broad, general opening statements to author and **Title**

• **Underline** **Title** for novels and plays

• Use quotation marks around “Title” of poems, short stories, or essays

Back to “Introduction”
Background

• **Sentences #5, 6, 7:**
• **Write 3 - 4 sentences that provide a concise summary of relevant plot, character and setting details**
• **Create a foundation that introduces characters and events your paper will analyze in detail**

Back to “Introduction”
• **Sentence # 8:**
• An opinion statement linked directly to the book being analyzed that is the central focus of the entire essay.
• **Thesis = the point that your essay will prove**
Topic Sentences

• Topic sentence: Phrase as **OPINION** statements related to your thesis & to the literary work(s) your essay is examining

  – Link topic sentences **DIRECTLY** to the book being analyzed (by naming a character or the author)

• AVOID phrasing topic sentences as an abstract generalization about “people” or “you.”
Pinpoint

• **Pinpoint**: is a set up for a quotation or for a concrete detail
  – Establish the CONTEXT of the quotation/example that will be used
  – Provide a mini plot summary: briefly describe the plot events that lead up to the quotation
  – Identifies who is speaking or thinking or commenting in the forthcoming quotation
  – 2 – 5 sentences in length
Quotes & Concrete Details

• **Quote/Concrete Detail**: Evidence that helps prove your thesis

  – Make sure it relates to your topic sentence & thesis

  – Limit yourself to 1 - 2 well chosen quotes **maximum** per body paragraph
Commentary

– 5 - 7 sentences minimum
– Explain the meaning or significance of the quotation
– Connect quotation or specific example back to your thesis
– Write about your thesis directly in every body paragraph
– Avoid referring to the quote as a “quote;” better to say: passage, statement, excerpt, or describe the character’s thought, idea or what he/she “expresses”
Conclusion

Sentences 1, 2, 3, 4

• Emphasize your main points & echo your thesis statement.

• Try writing at least one sentence about each of your body paragraphs.

• Connect your main points directly to your thesis statement.

• Avoid repeating your thesis word for word.

Go to “Sentence 5-10”
Conclusion

Sentences 5 - 10

• Make a Leap: Connect thesis to Larger, Real-Life Issues

• Explain how the thesis of your essay or a key issue in the story/novel/play your paper is about or relates to real life, to real people, to real issues facing humanity.

• Link the story’s themes, conflicts, issues, hardships, and struggles to the real life struggles people face today or have faced throughout time.

• Use phrases like
  “Like (character’s name), we all face....”
  “As (Author’s Last Name’s) story shows, people throughout time have had to face....”

Go to “Reminders on Conclusions”
Reminders on Conclusions

• No QUOTES in a conclusion
• Mention the author(s) OR “Title(s)” OR character(s) at least once
• No need to repeat ALL authors and titles
• Think “BIG PICTURE” or “REAL LIFE” as you end your paper
• A 2 - 4 sentence conclusion is TOO SHORT!!!!
Essay Do’s & Don’ts

• Avoid all uses of: I, me, my, you, your
• Avoid the following “announcing” phrases:
  - “this shows”
  - “in conclusion”
• Do NOT use the words: essay, thesis, quote
• Be careful using: it, this, that
THE END