

Thesis Frames

X= Literary Terms Y= THEME and/or connection to MOVEMENT's ideas.

1) (The author) uses _____ X _____ (LITERARY TERMS) to expose _____ Y _____ (THEME).

2) Through the use of _____ X _____ (the author) demonstrates (how) _____ Y _____.

3) The development of _____ X _____ reveals _____ Y _____.

Topic Sentence

In the topic sentence, you should present some portion of your thesis to be proven in the paragraph. If you are working with a thesis created from the three models presented earlier, you can present the information you inserted into spaces x and y. Early paragraphs in your essay should focus on the information in space x, and later paragraphs should focus on the information in space y. Each new paragraph should either develop a new portion or expand a point made in a previous paragraph.

Introduction to Evidence Narrow Down Sentence

The narrow down sentence should introduce the reader to a specific passage that supports your topic sentence. You should name the source of the passage (who is speaking here?), name the location of the passage (is it toward the beginning of the work? Toward the end? In what paragraph? In what context?), or describe the content of the passage (who's doing what? What is the speaker saying?).

Evidence

Here you will use a quote from your text pertinent to the sup-point of the thesis—that is, the topic of this paragraph

Analysis

In these sentences you need to explain the meaning of the passage you've just quoted, and/or explain how that passage supports your topic sentence. Refer to specific words in the passage that carry special meaning or extra importance and how those words give rise to your interpretation. This is your analysis.

Commentary

To conclude the body paragraph, you need to finish your explanation of the passage and sum up the points just presented and explain their direct connection your thesis. You also need to provide a transition to the next paragraph.

Analysis Checklist

Thesis:

Topic Sentence:

Introduction to Evidence (location/speaker/content/context):

Evidence: “

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(Citation).

Analysis and explanation (of quote's key words/concepts)

Commentary (relate meaning of quote to topic):

Thesis Examples

1. (Shakespeare) uses the x-plot to expose Iago's growing influence over Othello.
2. Through the use of the grotesque, (Faulkner) demonstrates that Miss Emily's secrets represent ugly truths about the American South.
3. The development of the flea as a symbol for love reveals the desperation behind the speaker's attempt to seduce the lady he addresses in John Donne's "The Flea."

Analysis Checklist

Thesis: In "The Chrysanthemums," John Steinbeck uses Elisa's dress and the fence surrounding the garden to expose the many boundaries Elisa has imposed upon her life.

Topic Sentence: The attention given to the characters' movement around the wire fence shows that this boundary has been created to protect her from intruders.

Introduction to Evidence (location/speaker/content/context): Steinbeck draws his readers' attention to the Drifter's movements as he works his way from one side of the fence to the other.

Evidence: "He drew a big finger down the chicken wire and made it sing"; then, "He leaned confidentially over the fence"; and finally, "The man leaned farther over the fence" (242-43).

Analysis (of quote's key words/concepts): The fence, designed to keep out barnyard animals and others who might trample and uproot the flowers, here also keeps the Drifter away from Elisa, and a major turning point in the story comes when she allows him into the garden.

Commentary (relate meaning of quote to topic): She has now lowered her protection from this intruder and becomes vulnerable to his lies and schemes.

Putting It All Together

The attention given to the characters' movement around the wire fence shows that this boundary has been created to protect her from intruders. Steinbeck draws his readers' attention to the Drifter's movements as he works his way from one side of the fence to the other: "He drew a big finger down the chicken wire and made it sing"; then, "He leaned confidentially over the fence"; and finally, "The man leaned farther over the fence" (242-43). The fence, designed not only to keep out barnyard animals and others who might trample and uproot the flowers here also keeps the Drifter away from Elisa. Interestingly, the animal and flower motif symbolically reference the baseness of the Drifter and the purity of the young lady herself. A major turning point in the story comes when she allows him into the garden. She has now lowered her protection from this intruder and becomes vulnerable to his lies and schemes.