

Critical Thinking Paragraph Model

Ms. Dickson's Class

Teaching English on a Shoestring Budget

<http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Msdickson>

Overview:

A fill-in-the-blank paragraph model for students to use with critical thinking or other paragraphs. Works well for helping students with structuring their paragraphs. Good for both students new to critical paragraph writing and those who need additional support to remain focused and organized.

Teacher Notes:

The paragraph model can be a useful tool both with teaching paragraph writing but also with reinforcing it. I introduced this in my classroom after seeing how many of my alternative high school students wrote unorganized and often underdeveloped paragraphs in response to critical thinking questions. With the model, they slowed down and provided better organization—and significantly less “stream-of-consciousness” writing.

Sometimes I would have students transfer their work from the model to a final draft, and other times I would just accept the model, grading more on content (and support). I run these pages off in batches of 100 when the machine is free, and students, after initially grumbling, started to request use of them even when not required.

The model includes prompts for each sentence of the paragraph and room for students to write.

The topic sentence is the position that the student is taking, the body sentences are evidence/ support and the last sentence is a summary.

PARAGRAPH MODEL

► You may have more than one sentence for each of the evidence/explanation lines, **but** you cannot have less than one.

Topic Sentence (what you are arguing/ explaining): _____

Evidence (or explanation): _____

Explanation (or more evidence): _____

Explanation (or more evidence): _____

Summary of topic: _____

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Company Project
Combines creativity and real-world writing!

CREATE a company!

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Write, then complete letters with another student in your group. (This activity requires a partner group member - completed only.)

COMPLAINT LETTER

WRITE business letters to and from the company

Advertise!

Rubrics Included!

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Movie vs. Book
Comparison and Evaluation Activities

Watch any part or whole movie

Compare plot and/or literary items in both versions

Also include short stories

Decide which parts were better in which version

Evaluate if the movie or the book was better

Rubric Included!

Includes 2 versions of the evaluation to meet student needs

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The Raven# Tweets
(Edgar Allan Poe)

This activity has students turn the poem "The Raven" into Tweets. Includes template and concluding reflection.

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Descriptive Writing Can Be a Beast

Great fun as a one-day, multi-day, or filler activity. Students try to draw a beast (or monster) from their classmate's written description. How good is the description?

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Activity Bundles currently available for the following:

- [The Raven](#)
- [The Cask of Amontillado](#)
- [Legend of Sleepy Hollow](#)
- [A Christmas Carol](#)
- [MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech](#)
- [Rip Van Winkle](#)
- [The Metamorphosis](#)
- [Aladdin](#)
- [The Monkey's Paw](#)
- [The Time Machine](#)
- [Frankenstein](#)
- [The Call of the Wild](#)
- [Snow Poetry Activity Bundle \(Frost, Dickinson, Emerson\)](#)
- [After Twenty Years](#)
- [The Necklace](#)
- Bundle Contents also sold individually
- And more coming soon!

St. Valentine's Day Massacre Activities Bundle

A set of activities about the St. Valentine's Day Massacre and Al Capone. Includes reading informational text, a web scavenger hunt, Create Your Own Mob project (Criminal or Positive) and more! Great distraction from Valentine's romance!

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Common Core Aligned!

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Song Lyric Literary Analysis

Step-by-step analysis of song lyrics in a literary analysis. Emphasis is on the close reading first, followed by essay writing. Great introduction to literary analysis.

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High School English on a Shoestring Budget Ms. Dickson's Class

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