

Classical Scheme of Argumentation: Formal Outline for Essay One

Follow this outline sentence by sentence when you write your paper. Be sure to lead up to your argumentative thesis in the **introduction** and begin each body paragraph (Section III-VI) with a topic sentence that refers back to a subtopic stated or suggested in the thesis.

Essay One must include all parts of this outline. Part VII may be divided into two paragraphs if you prefer to separate the concession and the refutation, so you may have 8 or 9 paragraphs.

I. Introduction

- A. Introduce topic: State the author, title (in quotation marks) and topic focus to capture the readers' attention.
- B. Add background information
- C. State thesis: Narrow topic and state claim and suggest four subtopics

II. Expository paragraph: This paragraph demonstrates the expertise of the writer on this topic and identifies terms or explains pertinent background information. (Ethical appeal) (3-5 Sentences) You may want to present a summary the story or a historical perspective.

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.

III. **Confirmation Section:** Subtopic One (See alternate arrangement with only one quote in section V and VI. You may include either one or two quotes in each paragraph of the confirmation section as long as you develop the paragraph with 7 or more sentences.

- A. Topic Sentence: Introduce the topic of this paragraph and your claim about it.
- B. Elaborate on the topic
- C. Introduce a quote and state it.
- D. Explain your interpretation of the quote. Analyze its significance to your thesis!
- E. Introduce next quote and state it.
- F. Discuss the quote. Do not simply paraphrase or restate it: analyze it.
- G. Transition to the next paragraph

IV. Confirmation Section: Subtopic Two

- A. Topic Sentence: Introduce the topic of this paragraph and your claim about it.
- B. Elaborate on the topic
- C. Introduce a quote and state it. Use quotation marks and punctuate in MLA style!
- D. Explain your interpretation of the quote.
- E. Introduce next quote and state it.
- F. Discuss the quote.
- G. Transition to the next paragraph

V. Confirmation Section: Subtopic Three

- A. Topic Sentence: Introduce the topic of this paragraph and your claim about it.
- B. Elaborate on the topic
- C. Introduce a quote and its context in the story.
- D. Explain your interpretation of the quote.
- E. Continue to discuss the quote by analyzing a particular word choice in the passage.
- F. Discuss the symbolic aspect of the passage.
- G. Transition to the next paragraph

VI. Confirmation Section: Subtopic Four

- A. Topic Sentence: Introduce the topic of this paragraph and your claim about it.
- B. Elaborate on the topic
- C. Introduce a quote and its context in the story.
- D. Explain your interpretation of the quote.
- E. Continue to discuss the quote by analyzing a particular word choice in the passage.
- F. Discuss the symbolic aspect of the passage.
- G. Transition to the next paragraph

VII. Concession and Refutation (You may decide to divide this section into two paragraphs by explaining an alternative interpretation of this story and its merits in this paragraph; then, explaining its flaws in the next.)

- A. Acknowledge a strong opposing view to your thesis
- B. Explain the appeal of this position and introduce a quote to explain it.
- C. Discuss the quote.
- D. Juxtapose this position to your position on the topic.
- E. Reemphasize why your interpretation is more appealing than your opponent's.
- F. You may discuss another opposing argument or close with more explanation in defense of your thesis.

VIII. Conclusion

- A. Restate your thesis with a bolder claim.
- B.-C. Add a message to leave a memorable question or message in your reader's mind.