

## Building Blocks of an Analytical Essay

### ☐ Essay Title:

- ☐ Centered (do this by using the format keys, not by using the spacebar)
- ☐ Capitalize Properly
- ☐ DO NOT ADD EXTRA SPACES OR SPECIAL FONTS

### ☐ 1st Paragraph= INTRODUCTION:

- ☐ Hook: a sentence or two that captures your audience's attention
- ☐ VERY Brief summary of the story (including title and author)
- ☐ **CLAIM** (also called an Assertion or Claim or Main Idea)
- ☐ Brief summary of 3 reasons (**Evidence**) your Claim/Assertion/Thesis is true- this is not quotes from text, but a brief mention of 3 aspects of the text that support your claim

### ☐ 2nd Paragraph= BODY #1

- ☐ **TOPIC SENTENCE** that supports an aspect of your thesis
- ☐ 2 or 3 Quotes/Examples from text that provide **EVIDENCE** supporting **TOPIC SENTENCE**
- ☐ **GIVE THE PAGE # in parenthesis at the end of the quote or summary from text!**
- ☐ Context (explain who said it, and/or what's happening in the story when this quote came up)
- ☐ **REASONING** (what the evidence you give means, and why it supports your CLAIM)
- ☐ transition to next point

### ☐ 3rd Paragraph= BODY #2

- ☐ **TOPIC SENTENCE** that supports an aspect of your thesis
- ☐ 2 or 3 Quotes/Examples from text that provide **EVIDENCE** supporting **TOPIC SENTENCE**
- ☐ **GIVE THE PAGE # in parenthesis at the end of the quote or summary from text!**
- ☐ Context (explain who said it, and/or what's happening in the story when this quote came up)
- ☐ **REASONING** (what the evidence you give means, and why it supports your CLAIM)
- ☐ transition to next point

### ☐ 4th Paragraph= BODY #3

- ☐ **TOPIC SENTENCE** that supports an aspect of your thesis
- ☐ 2 or 3 Quotes/Examples from text that provide **EVIDENCE** supporting **TOPIC SENTENCE**
- ☐ **GIVE THE PAGE # in parenthesis at the end of the quote or summary from text!**
- ☐ Context (explain who said it, and/or what's happening in the story when this quote came up)
- ☐ **REASONING** (what the evidence you give means, and why it supports your CLAIM)
- ☐ transition to next point

### ☐ 5th Paragraph= CONCLUSION

- ☐ Rephrase why your Thesis (or Claim) is true.
- ☐ Summarize your 3 supporting points
- ☐ Leave your audience with a last impression
- ☐ **\*AVOID SAYING "In conclusion..."**
- ☐ Use MLA formatting (look at the handout you received OR look at [owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu))
- ☐ **\*DO NOT SAY "I" or "We" or "My" or "Me" or "You"**
- ☐ **\*DO NOT SAY ANYTHING LIKE: "This quote proves..." "This shows..." "This is evidence..."** (just show it or prove it- don't tell us what you're doing- just do it)!