

Tier 1.5: Pre-Writing Worksheet 2a

How to Shape Your Body Paragraphs

Each body paragraph should have:

- A topic sentence that names the author *and* the title of the story, uses the words “suspense” and “irony.” Your topic sentence will be exactly one sentence long and will be the first sentence of your paragraph.
- A short, one sentence summary of the story to give readers a general understanding of what is going on in the story to be able to then make sense of why something would be suspenseful or ironic.
- A transition into the suspense development.
- A transition/lead in into your first quote. This might explain what is happening at the time of your quote, who is speaking, etc.
- At least one direct quote from the story that shows suspense development and, by a correct citation.
- A full explanation of *how* that quote is building suspense (perhaps also discussing that this is or is not similar to how Hitchcock says to develop suspense). Your explanations of your quote(s) will follow each quote, and these explanations are by far the most important part of your paragraph, as the quotes will prove nothing by themselves.
- Some kind of transition to lead the reader from the suspense into the intentional misdirection/irony development.
- A transition/lead in into your second quote. This might explain what is happening at the time of your quote, who is speaking, etc.
- At least one direct quote from the story that shows the irony development through intentional misdirection followed by a correct citation.
- A full explanation *of how* that quote is developing irony by explaining how it leads the reader to avoid suspecting the character who was ultimately guilty.
- A restatement of your topic sentence with all the same key words and parts, etc., as your topic sentence. Your TSR (topic sentence restatement) will be exactly one sentence long and it will be the final sentence of your paragraph.

Some other things to consider:

- Transition between your two paragraphs by using a transitional word or phrase in your second paragraph's topic sentence. For example, you might say, “Another story that...”
- Use the full titles and put the titles of the stories in quotation marks to avoid confusion. “Three Blind Mice” is the story, whereas three blind mice are just three mice that cannot see. “The Adventure of Johnnie Waverly” is the story. Johnnie Waverly is the character.
- If dialogue exists within your quote, turn any original quotation marks into single quotes. Double quotes will only be used to begin and end *your* quote. For example: “‘The police—’ began Mr. Waverly” (Christie 1).
- When you refer to the author in your paragraph, refer to her by her last name, **not** her first name. However, the first time you refer to an author, it’s generally considered preferable to use their full name. Every time after, the last name alone is appropriate.
- Avoid any 1st person (do not refer to yourself or to your paragraph)