

Tier 2.0: 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 “horror.” 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 build suspense or develop horror.
- A transition into 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, followed 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 horror 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 development of horror, followed by a correct citation.
- A full explanation *of how* that quote is developing horror (not just suspense). Be sure to show that horror is distinctly different from suspense.
- 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 handle the titles of the stories correctly. Short story titles go in quotation marks. For example, “The Lottery” is the story, whereas the lottery is the event in the story. The novel *The Haunting of Hill House* is to be written in italics, not in quotation marks.
- 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: “‘They’re almost through,’ her son said.” (Jackson 52).
- 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).