Evaluating Hitchcock's Philosophy

After having read Hitchcock's essay on how he develops suspense in his films, and after having read three stories that all develop suspense in quite different ways (Dahl's "The Landlady," Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" and Jacob's "The Monkey's Paw"), it is obvious that there is not only one way to create suspense. Write an argument about whether you believe Hitchcock has the right idea about the best way to create suspense.

You must begin your paragraph with a topic sentence that clearly states your claim (that Hitchcock does or does not have the right idea about the best way to create suspense).

The body of your paragraph must include:

a) An explanation of Hitchcock's philosophy of how to build suspense (mostly his primary)
b) A discussion of *each* of the three fiction stories, one at a time, discussing:
   1. how each one develops suspense (what the author does/does not let the audience know beforehand* and how that shapes the suspense)
      *=good place for textual evidence
   2. your reasoning of why it is the most, somewhat or least effective way to build suspense of the three. (For example, discuss how Dahl develops suspense in "The Landlady" and why that is especially effective, somewhat effective, or least effective. Then do the same for the other two stories.)
c) Link Hitchcock's philosophy to the author/story that best follows his approach as proof of why Hitchcock does or does not have the best approach to create suspense.

Important: you will need to consider the best way to organize all of these points. Certainly, begin with the first point (a), as this is necessary to set the rest of your arguments in motion. You'll need to organize (b) and (c) in one of two likely models:

1) start from the *least* effective suspense text and end on the *most* effective, linking Hitchcock (c) in the appropriate part of the paragraph where that story is discussed, or
2) start with the *most* effective suspense text and end on the *least* effective, again linking Hitchcock (c) in the appropriate part of the paragraph where that story is discussed. (Note: I think model 1 is more effective, as it removes the worst option one at a time, making the audience more likely to agree with your next point.)

Also: because you are handling so much information in the paragraph, you <u>must</u> adequately transition between ideas, making it clear what text you are discussing/going to discuss as well as where it ranks (most, somewhat or least effective in building suspense). (For example, you might say something like: Jacob's story "The Monkey's Paw" is the most effective in building suspense of the three stories.)

Finally, you will conclude your paragraph by restating your claim in your topic sentence restatement.

Cite your quotes correctly, avoid first person, use standard paragraph format, double space your paragraph and use standard (Ariel or Times New Roman) font, size 11.

Rubric

Topic Sentence

- Effective (3 pts)
- Minor issues/concerns (2 pts)
- Ineffective focus/too focused on details (1 pt)

Support

- Thorough; good use of quotes; well explained (12 pts)
- Ample; adequate explanation (10 pts)
- Some gaps in support/explanation; unclear relationship b/w support and t.s. (8 pts)
- Underdeveloped; not enough or inadequate quotes; no explanation (7 pts)
- Off topic (6 pts)

Restatement of Topic Sentence

- Effective (3 pts)
- Minor issues/ concerns (2 pts)
- Ineffective focus/too focused on details (1 pt)

Citations

- Effective (5 pts)
- Minor issues/concerns (4 pts)
- Major issues/concerns (3 pts)

Formatting & Avoiding First Person

- Effective formatting *and* no first person (5 pts)
- One formatting issue/concern *or* 1-2 instances of 1st person (4 pts)
- Multiple formatting issues/concerns and/or multiple instances of 1st person (3 pts)