

## Theme Development Paragraphs

Prompt: Explain how all three texts (“There Will Come Soft Rains” by Bradbury, “Radioactive Wolves,” and “Experiment 023681” by Leary) develop the same theme—Despite man's destructive power, life goes on. (Or in other words: Even though humans destroy themselves, life goes on without them.) Each text will get its own paragraph that explains in detail through use of textual evidence how that text develops and portrays that theme. Finally, a fourth paragraph will discuss which text most effectively develops and portrays that theme, giving clear reasoning of why it is superior in its theme development than the other two. These four paragraphs will be split in half, with you and a partner each writing two of the four. Important: one person *cannot* write *both* the “Radioactive Wolves” paragraph and the final evaluation paragraph. Those paragraphs must be split up. Each person must turn in his/her own paragraphs with a rubric. Therefore, two submissions (one from each partner) will make up the full essay project.

### Body Paragraph I

Topic sentence

T.S. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Support

SPT \_\_\_\_\_

- Thorough; good use of quotes; well explained (10 pts)
- Ample; adequate explanation (8 pts)
- Some gaps in support/explanation; unclear relationship b/w support and t.s. (7 pts)
- Underdeveloped/incomplete; not enough or inadequate quotes; no explanation (6 pts)
- Off topic (5 pts)

Restatement of Topic Sentence

T.S.R. \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Body Paragraph II

Topic sentence

T.S. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Support

SPT \_\_\_\_\_

- Thorough; good use of quotes; well explained (10 pts)
- Ample; adequate explanation (8 pts)
- Some gaps in support/explanation; unclear relationship b/w support and t.s. (7 pts)
- Underdeveloped/incomplete; not enough or inadequate quotes; no explanation (6 pts)
- Off topic (5 pts)

Restatement of Topic Sentence

T.S.R. \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Other

Citations

CIT \_\_\_\_\_

- All quotes cited correctly (5 pts)
- Quotes are not cited correctly- up to 2 pts deduction
- Quotes are not cited -- up to 3 pts deduction

Formality

FRM \_\_\_\_\_

- No first person used (3 pts)
- For each two instances, 1 point deduction, up to 2 pt deduction total

### Deductions

Format and/or legibility concerns

DDCT \_\_\_\_\_

Total Score

\_\_\_\_\_ /40

## How to Shape Your Paragraphs for Theme Development

Each paragraph should have:

- Topic Sentence that names the author (if applicable), the title, the full theme it is developing (see prompt) and uses the word theme
- Quotes that show the theme development and a correct citation for each quote (This will not be true for “Radioactive Wolves” paragraph, which will not contain any quotes but WILL contain facts and information from the video to show evidence of both parts of the theme.)
- Full explanation of how each quote (or fact for “Radioactive Wolves”) is developing the theme by first showing the first condition of the theme (man's destructive power) and then the second (life goes on)
- Restatement of topic sentence with all the same key words and parts, etc. as stated above

Evaluation paragraph should have:

- Topic sentence that mentions all three texts (either specifically or generically), the full theme (see prompt), the title of the text that best shows the theme, a statement that that text does develop the theme most effectively, and use the word theme
- Explanation of why the one text develops the theme especially effectively
- Individual explanations of why the other two texts develop the theme less effectively
- Restatement of topic sentence with all the same key words and parts, etc.

Some things to consider:

- Prepare the reader for your quotes by first giving a short context for each quote by explaining what the reader needs to know about the story at the point of that quote to make that quote make sense to your reader.
- Transition between the two ideas in each paragraph by using a transitional word or phrase.
- Transition between your paragraphs by using a transitional word in your second paragraph's topic sentence.
- Put the title of the story in “ ”.
- 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: “ 'Charles?' she said. 'We don't have any Charles in the kindergarten' ” (Jackson 476).
- Avoid any 1<sup>st</sup> person (do not refer to yourself or your paragraph)
- Cite your quotes correctly--author's last name only and then page number (Jackson 474)
- Indent beginnings of paragraphs and all subsequent lines of the paragraph should go back to the left margin. Don't skip extra spaces between paragraphs.