

Let's Talk: **Essay Basics**

- This presentation will cover...
 - * **Organization**
 - * **Thesis**
 - * **Quotation Integration**
 - * **Commentary**

Let's Talk: Organization & Style

- * **Introductions** can be a good place to start to **include the relevant background information**

- * **Hook >**

- * **Transition**

- * **ID the text >**

- * **Main Argument (ie: thesis)**

- * **Conclusions** are a change to...

- * Present a **new, relevant idea**

- * **Restate the thesis** in a new way

- * Discuss any **additional commentary** you could not find a place for in the essay

Let's Talk: Organization & Style

- * **Introductions:**

- * **For a one-paragraph essay, keep it short and sweet!**

- * **Hook >**

- * **Transition >**

- * **ID the text >**

- * **Main Argument (ie: thesis)**

- * **Conclusions:**

- * Keep it to **ONE SENTENCE**

- * Present a **new, relevant idea**

- * **OR Restate the thesis** in a new way

- * **OR Discuss any additional commentary** you could not find a place for in the essay

This is the Thesis

Driving Question?

How can we craft a clear, focused and sophisticated thesis that outlines a cohesive and compelling argument in response to a prompt we have written?

Let's Talk: **Main Argument**

- A strong thesis...
- * **ANSWERS** the prompts
- * **Tells HOW** it will answer the prompt
- * **Is one CONCISE** thought
- * **Is DEBATABLE**

Essay discussing the man's role as a father.

- These are our topics why:
 - The man keeps the boys safe
 - The man teaches the boy to be independent
 - The man is harsh on the boy in order to teach him

Example #1

- The father has a tough role to fulfill in protecting the boy from threats to his physical safety, but also to his mental and emotional health.

Example #1: Not a thesis

- *The father has a tough role to fulfill in protecting the boy from threats to his physical safety, but also to his mental and emotional health.*
- **This is not a solid thesis:**
 - **The argument is not clear**
 - **No stance is taken**
 - **It is not debatable**

Example #2

- The father fulfills his role as a father because he cares for the boy physically, but also by teaching him to take care of himself.

Example #2: Lower Level

- *The father fulfills his role as a father **because** he cares for the boy **physically**, but also by teaching him to take care of himself **mentally** and **emotionally**.*
- This is **not a bad thesis**; however, it is **not a strong thesis** either:
 - **Simple structure:**
“This” **because** of “That”
 - **Three point thesis / a listing thesis**
 - **Diction is low level; a bit confusing**

To Make a Thesis Stronger

- Use **Qualifiers** like “although...”, “when...”, “since...” and “if..., then...”
- *Qualifiers help eliminate reliance on the word “because” and result in a more mature sounding argument.*
- Also, try to move away from a listing / three point thesis

In your groups... you try!

Essay discussing the man's role as a father.

- These are our topics why:
 - The man keeps the boys safe
 - The man teaches the boy to be independent
 - The man is harsh on the boy in order to teach him

Example #3

- Even though the father is harsh at times in fulfilling his paternal role, he encourages the boy to develop independence as a sustainable means of caring for his physical and emotional health.

Example #3: Higher Level

- *Even though the father is harsh at times in fulfilling his paternal role, he encourages the boy to develop independence as a sustainable means of caring for his physical and emotional health.*
- This is considered to be a **strong thesis**:
 - **The point is clear and debatable**
 - **Establishes an argument without “because”**
 - **Is not a three point thesis / a listing thesis**
 - **Uses high level diction.**

Let's Talk: Main Argument

Even though the father is harsh at times in fulfilling his paternal role, he encourages the boy to develop independence as a sustainable means of caring for his physical and emotional health.

- * **ANSWERS** the prompts
- * **Tells HOW** it will answer the prompt
- * **Is one CONCISE** thought
- * **Is DEBATABLE**

Let's Talk: Main Argument

Even though the father is **harsh at times** in fulfilling his paternal role, **he encourages the boy to develop independence** as a sustainable means of caring for his **physical** and **emotional** health.

NOTICE THAT...

The whole essay should NOT be spent **making an argument**.
MOST of the essay is spent on presenting the facts.

A) **Cares for physical health.**

B) **Cares for emotional health.**

C) **The man is harsh at times.**

Let's Talk: **Commentary**

- * **Alternate between evidence and commentary!**
- * DO go back and forth between lines of examples and analysis
- * **Keep asking yourself: “Why is this important?”** after every example when doing analysis
- * **Three ways to insert analysis:**
 - *1) **Golden Lines style**
 - * Quotation > Summary > Context > Analysis
 - *2) **“Quotation Sandwich” style**
 - * Context > Quotation > Analysis
 - *3) **“Say Mean Matter” style (for “follow-up” evidence)**
 - * Quotation > Summary > Analysis

Let's Talk: Quotation Integration

* Do:

- * When the boy says, "This is a good place, Papa" (pg. 47), his father is cooking dinner for them over a campfire.
Integrated!

* Do:

- * While his father is cooking dinner for them over a campfire, the boy says, "This is a good place, Papa" (pg. 47).
Integrated!

* Don't:

- * "This is a good place, Papa." (pg. 47). His father is cooking dinner for them over a campfire.
Plopped :(

Prompt Selection:

- Choose a prompt, and start working on your main argument! Remember that a strong thesis should...
- * **ANSWERS the prompts**
- * **Tells HOW it will answer the prompt**
- * **Is one CONCISE thought**
- * **Is DEBATABLE**