ESSAY PLANNING SHEET

TITLE Example:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Significant Quotation:** | | | | From a Different Perspective: |
| **Topic:** | | | | The Importance of Empathy |
|  | **in** | |  | In |
| **Author:** | | **Title:** | | Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* |

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

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| --- | --- |
| WORDS OF INTRODUCTION  - a few sentences talking about your essay topic in a general way  - this could be a place to define your terms, discuss issues brought up by your epigraph, et cetera  - do *not* discuss the book or the author in this section! |  |
| THESIS  - the single most important sentence in your essay!  - make sure it is an argument!  - use the KISS rule (“Keep it simple, stupid!”); additional info can be supplied by the elaboration  - make sure it does not just say “Topic X exists in the story”  - mention the story and the author (e.g. – “In Edgar Allan Poe’s ‘The Tell-Tale Heart’…”) |  |
| ELABORATION  - a sentence or two expanding on your thesis  - it could serve to delineate the boundaries of your argument |  |
| PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT  - a sentence outlining the content of your body paragraphs  - should be in order! (e.g. – the first point mentioned in the plan should be the topic of the first paragraph, the second point the second paragraph, and so on) |  |

CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

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| --- | --- |
| THESIS RESTATED - literally a rewrite of your thesis statement from your introductory paragraph |  |
| EXAMPLES SUMMARIZED  - a rewrite of your plan of development from your introductory paragraph  - often includes a bit more detail from your body paragraphs than your plan of development did |  |
| WORDS OF CONCLUSION  - a few sentences that tie up your thesis nicely  - often a good place to work in a mention of your title quotation! |  |

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|  | BODY PARAGRAPH #1 – should be your second-strongest set of arguments | BODY PARAGRAPH #2 – should be your third-strongest set of arguments | BODY PARAGRAPH #3 – should be your strongest set of arguments |
| TOPIC SENTENCE - a simple sentence stating what your paragraph will be about  - like your essay’s thesis, follow the KISS rule for this sentence |  |  |  |
| ELABORATION  - a sentence expanding in some way on your topic sentence  - some students use this sentence as a “mini-plan of development” for the paragraph |  |  |  |
| EXAMPLE #1  - this sentence must contain a quotation from the literary work (do not forget citation – page number, line number, et cetera)  - the quotation should be blended into your sentence  - remember: the quotation by itself is not the sentence!  - example #1 is usually your second-best proof |  |  |  |
| ANALYSIS #1  - this sentence explains how the first quotation proves the thesis  - this sentence analyzes the relevance of the first quotation |  |  |  |
| EXAMPLE #2  - this sentence must contain a quotation from the literary work (do not forget citation – page number, line number, et cetera)  - the quotation should be blended into your sentence  - remember: the quotation by itself is not the sentence!  - example #2 is usually your third-best proof |  |  |  |
| ANALYSIS #2  - this sentence explains how the second quotation proves the thesis  - this sentence analyzes the relevance of the second quotation |  |  |  |
| EXAMPLE #3  - this sentence must contain a quotation from the literary work (do not forget citation – page number, line number, et cetera)  - the quotation should be blended into your sentence  - remember: the quotation by itself is not the sentence!  - example #3 is usually your best proof |  |  |  |
| ANALYSIS #3  - this sentence explains how the third quotation proves the thesis  - this sentence analyzes the relevance of the third quotation |  |  |  |
| CONCLUDING SENTENCE  - this sentence wraps up the paragraph  - often a simple re-wording of the topic sentence |  |  |  |

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THESIS: