Literary Analysis Paper – *If I Ever Get Out of Here*

**Instructions and Graphic Organizer**

Before you begin…

You need to choose a topic and a thesis statement before you begin writing; you may choose the one we have talked about in class about friendship.

FOR EXAMPLE:

**Topic**: friendship or the role of “friends” or other characters throughout *If I Ever Get Out of Here*

**Thesis**: take that topic that you chose and make it specific or arguable. A thesis statement **tells the reader what you are going to prove in your essay**.

\*Keep in mind that for most literary analysis essays, the writing needs to place emphasis on what the AUTHOR is doing, whether it is connected to theme, symbolism, characterization, etc. Topic sentence, textual evidence, transitions, and conclusion sentences should all relate to the author.

**You write:**

**Topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**What next?**

While most of you like to write an essay in chronological order (introduction, body, then conclusion), there are some advantages to waiting to write the full introduction and conclusion until after writing the body. See the description of the introduction and conclusion, which may help you to see why writing these after the body will be helpful.

**Introduction Paragraph**

1. **Opener –** start your intro with an **opener**. An opener can be an observation, a definition, a quotation (not from the work itself), or an allusion. It should NOT mention a character from the novel or refer to the novel’s title or author. This will come later.

**EX: It has often been said that we do not appreciate someone until we have to live with their absence. It is also true that we begin to appreciate people more when we contrast them to other people in our lives as well.**

1. **Linking Sentence –** Next, you need a sentence that will serve as a link between your opener and thesis. This needs to connect the idea to your opener in a natural way to the idea in your thesis statement.

**EX: Authors often use this idea when developing characters in their novels as a way to influence how the readers feel about them.**

1. **Identification –** Either as part of your linking sentence or as part of your thesis, make sure you identify the author and the name of the novel. I have incorporated mine into the thesis as shown below in #4.
2. **Thesis –** See previous description for what you need in a thesis:
   1. **Eric Gansworth utilizes the idea of friendship and human interaction in his novel *If I Ever Get Out of Here* by portraying that good friendships may come and go, but the impression they leave and lessons they give us lasts forever.**
3. **Preview --** You will want your introduction to contain a preview for the rest of the essay after the thesis statement. This will state what evidence you will use to prove your thesis.

**1. Opener: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**2. Linking sentence: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3. (done in 2 or 4)**

**4. Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**5. Preview: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**BODY Paragraphs:**

**First Body Paragraph:**

1. **Topic sentence –** each body paragraph needs to start with a topic sentence. The topic sentence should mention the author, indicate the part of the novel you will discuss, and connect to the thesis.
   1. **EX: As Gansworth opens his novel, he presents the main character, Lewis, with his “friends” and shows the ways that Lewis learns bad behavior by assuming his friends are of good quality, which affects the ways in which he makes friends later in the book.**
2. **Evidence –** Next, you need to give evidence (typically a quote from the text). Make sure to always give **CONTEXT** information before quoting a passage. This involves a brief mention of what is happening in the plot or with the character before giving the quoted passage from that part of the book.
   1. **EX: I would probably select a quote with an interaction between Lewis and Carson, or possibly even when he calls Stacey names because he thinks that is how you treat friends.**
3. **Analysis –** This involves explaining how the quoted passage supports your thesis. In doing so, make sure you refer specifically to the ideas and words in your quoted passage and discuss what idea(s) the author is trying to present.
4. **Conclusion Sentence --**  this needs to sum up the main ideas of the paragraph, mention the author, and connect back to the thesis statement. It should NOT contain a transition to lead to the next paragraph. That is what the topic sentence is for in the next paragraph.

**A: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**B. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**C. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**D. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**BODY Paragraphs:**

**Second Body Paragraph:**

1. **Topic sentence –** each body paragraph needs to start with a topic sentence. The topic sentence should mention the author, indicate the part of the novel you will discuss, and connect to the thesis.
2. **Evidence –** Next, you need to give evidence (typically a quote from the text). Make sure to always give **CONTEXT** information before quoting a passage. This involves a brief mention of what is happening in the plot or with the character before giving the quoted passage from that part of the book.
3. **Analysis –** This involves explaining how the quoted passage supports your thesis. In doing so, make sure you refer specifically to the ideas and words in your quoted passage and discuss what idea(s) the author is trying to present.
4. **Conclusion Sentence --**  this needs to sum up the main ideas of the paragraph, mention the author, and connect back to the thesis statement. It should NOT contain a transition to lead to the next paragraph. That is what the topic sentence is for in the next paragraph.

**A: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**B. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**C. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**D. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**BODY Paragraphs:**

**Third Body Paragraph:**

1. **Topic sentence –** each body paragraph needs to start with a topic sentence. The topic sentence should mention the author, indicate the part of the novel you will discuss, and connect to the thesis.
2. **Evidence –** Next, you need to give evidence (typically a quote from the text). Make sure to always give **CONTEXT** information before quoting a passage. This involves a brief mention of what is happening in the plot or with the character before giving the quoted passage from that part of the book.
3. **Analysis –** This involves explaining how the quoted passage supports your thesis. In doing so, make sure you refer specifically to the ideas and words in your quoted passage and discuss what idea(s) the author is trying to present.
4. **Conclusion Sentence --**  this needs to sum up the main ideas of the paragraph, mention the author, and connect back to the thesis statement. It should NOT contain a transition to lead to the next paragraph. That is what the topic sentence is for in the next paragraph.

**A: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**B. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**C. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**D. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Conclusion:**

1. **Thesis Restatement –** Repeat your thesis while using different wording from the way you worded it in your introduction.
   1. **EX:** **Eric Gansworth clearly shows throughout the novel the different ways that friends benefit our lives by giving us lasting impressions and lessons.**
2. **Summary –** Sum up the main ideas of your three body paragraphs. A good rule of thumb is one sentence of summary per body paragraph.
3. **Closer –** Now you need to create a closer that connects back to your opener. Do not merely repeat your opener. Refer back to it with some new insight.
   1. **EX:** **Gansworth’s characters in his novel can remind his readers that even something as negative as a loss of a friend can leave us with a positive message and lasting positive impression on our lives to help us in our future.**

**Title: LAST JOB is to create a title for your paper**

**Do NOT use the name of the book for your title. The author already did that…**

**Do NOT create a boring title such as “Literary Analysis Paper”**

**DO be creative and do make sure that the title hints at the idea in your thesis**