

FIVE PARAGRAPH (3.5) ANALYTICAL ESSAY

Title

- previews the topic and work: Marriage in *The Taming of the Shrew*
- (It is not simply the title of the work itself, and is not in quotes or bolded)

Introduction

- title, author
- sets up topic (Ex. Marriage)
- thesis statement: specific statement of main idea discussed in the essay (the last sentence of the introduction)

The introduction should move from the general to the specific. The first sentence of introduction may be a general statement or question about the topic.

Example: Do men and women have different reasons for getting married? or Traditionally, men and women have different reasons for getting married.

The thesis statement, however, should be a specific statement about the topic and give the reader a clear idea of what you are going to discuss:

Example: *The Taming of the Shrew* reflects the thinking of the time through Petruchio's careless treatment of his marriage by treating it as a business transaction, his view of the superior role of men when he says that Katherina is his possession, and his poor treatment of women, Katherina in particular.

Body

- includes smooth transitions between paragraphs
- each paragraph has a topic sentence
- each paragraph includes a supporting passage cited from the text w/author's name
- significance of cited passage is explained
- each paragraph has a concluding sentence

Example:

Petruchio is one character in the play who wants to get married for financial reasons. Petruchio explains to Grumio and his old friend, Hortensio, when he first comes to Padua that he has, "come to wive it wealthily in Padua; / If wealthily, then happily in Padua" (I.2.72-73). He is basically saying that if his wife is wealthy, then he does not care what she is like. He says earlier in the scene that it does not matter to him about her personality or her looks, as long as she is rich. Later, he agrees to marry Katherina when Baptista tells him that her dowry will be 20,000 crowns. Thus, it is clear that Petruchio is only interested in marrying Katherina for the dowry that he will receive.

Conclusion

- moves back to the general from the specific
- expresses the writer's final thoughts about the topic
- expresses what has been proven in the essay
- does not include any new information

Works Cited

As the last page of the essay, list an MLA entry for any text you quote in your essay. If there is more than one, alphabetize the entries by the last names of the authors.

General Tips

- third person (no "I" or "you")
- write about literature in the present tense
- do not use contractions
- no announcements ("The topic of this paper will be...")
- vary sentence length and structure