



Introduction:

Though paragraph writing varies as widely as the author's that write them, students can do themselves a favor by learning a few basic writing templates that will help them to shape their style and formulate their thinking. In essence, teachers -- at all levels -- love to see certain characteristics in the papers they read. Apart from teachers, reader want to know that they are reading someone they can trust. In all, a writer has a tall obligation: he/she must be able to present the facts clearly, and these template below show you a few ways to do that.

Terms to Know:

The best papers, essays, responses, and novels will always do the same thing: present facts, show cause-and-effect, explore implications, draw conclusions, and move the reader a long to the end. To do so, the best written works incorporate:

Topic - The big idea/umbrella defining the work

Thesis - The statement controlling the paper or a paragraph

Inductions - Facts found in the subject being explored

Deductions - Conclusions drawn from examining the facts

Causation - Showing connection between the different parts of the story

Human Condition - the situation in a story that best connects with life

5-Functions:

The most basic paragraph does 5 things:

- 1) Presents a **topic sentence**
- 2) Shows **proof** of that topic
- 3) Shows **cause and effect** in relation to the whole novel
- 4) Offers **theme** reader can carry away
- 5) **Transitions** into next paragraph

Example:

Romeo's love for Juliet is impatient and, therefore, not biblical. In Act 1, Scene 5, when Romeo has just met Juliet, he swears his affection to her "QUOTE . . ." As a result of his hasty action, he finds himself in a fight with Tybalt, who swears to avenge an "ancient grudge" that

ultimately leads to his own death. This crisis shows the consequence of impatient relationship; impatience causes confusion and discord within families, and often sets a relationship on a dangerous course. Impatience does destroy this relationship, but it is one of several others that demonstrates how biblical relationships create healthy, honest communities.

Note:

We teach these paragraphs to freshman to push them away from “thinking on the page.” They, like most people forced to do something, say, “Why can’t I just do it my own way?” or, my favorite, “This is dumb.”

As dumb as it may be, it’s a building block -- the ground floor to something that virtually every teacher, writer, and (especially) reader expects when they enter into a relationship with the written text.

OCI Paragraph:

Another basic, more loose, structure that allows the writer to be more dialectic (more conversational, examining different angles) in exploring the implications of a written work. In it, the writer observes different elements of a written work, considers how those elements work, and interprets its meaning. The paragraph does not prescribe any real format, but centers around relative clauses -- starting with *since, if, when, because, where*, etc. -- as a means of exploring possibilities.

These paragraphs are generally more open-ended and broad in scope (meaning they deal with a novel/poem/essay sequentially) and explore how conditions connect with the human condition.

The impatience in Romeo and Juliet demonstrates the problem of hasty love. At the beginning, Romeo cannot see himself apart from his love with Rosaline whom he “ne’er saw her match since the world first begun.” This establishes Romeo as a hot-blooded Romantic who lives with his head in the clouds, but he soon trades one oppressive love for another in Juliet “who hangs upon the cheek at night.” Since Romeo’s heart quickly changes, he finds himself at odds with his friends, his family, and even his church. Mercutio, for instance, finds his best friend as a “humor, madman, passion, lover!” which captures Romeo’s fickle moods, and demonstrates how love, when it is not faithful, patient, and kind can even disillusion even the closest of friends. Beyond the friendships he destroys, Romeo’s heavenly talk of Juliet also shows how romantic notions alienates families, like the Capulets, who hate “peace, Capulets, and thee.” By the end of the play, anyone connected to Romeo’s midnight romance finds themselves on the run, in trouble with the law, or dead. Shakespeare uses Romeo to demonstrate youthful love; whereas most think of Romeo as the classic lover, Shakespeare seems to poke fun of Romeo’s passion and reckless behavior. Therefore, in looking into Romeo’s legendary relationship with Juliet, Shakespeare does not layout a classic

roadmap for love, but explores the problems youthful passion create, and uses Romeo as a warning to his readers about placing romance over reality:

Deductive Response:

Deductive Response paragraphs are the most thoroughly academic responses and, therefore, the primary focus of AP Language Writing. These paragraphs show the writer’s ability to 1) lay out an **argument**, 2) integrate **Proof**, 3) draw **Conclusions**, 4) **Interpret** material as a whole, and 5) Connect material to the **Human Condition**. It follows a very specific pattern:

Topic Sentence
 Induction
 Deduction
 Induction
 Deduction
 Interpretation/Connection
 Statement about Human Condition

Shakespeare uses Romeo to show the impact of youthful, hasty love. The contrast, between Romeo’s feelings for Rosaline, who has made Romeo “a sick man in sadness” (I.1), and Juliet who “teaches the torches to burn bright” (I.4) sets the tone for the entire play. Shakespeare uses Romeo’s fickle personality as an archetype; whereas all the other characters remain static (Benvolio peaceful, Mercutio playful and reckless, Capulet stubborn), Romeo’s emotions are all over the map and acts without concern for other people’s position. As he does, he overlooks the problems his desires have caused. In Act III, Scene 3, in a raged designed to avenge “brave Mercutio’s death”, Romeo “begins the woe others must end”, slaying Tybalt and being banished from Verona. Shakespeare entangles Romeo in romance and reality; the minute Romeo’s mind lift to the clouds, something tangible brings him back to earth and throws him into fits of despair. In that sense, Shakespeare makes Romeo the most complete character of the play; and he shows Romeo as everything from a wimp (whining over lost love) to a hero (avenging his best friend’s death). This leaves the reader with a clear-cut choice: believe in romance, which fails us, or be a skeptic, and live in a world where all people, fighters and lovers, die in the end.