

SAMPLE/SUGGESTED OUTLINE: Metamorphosis and the ISMs Paper

Feeling overwhelmed? Here is one way that you can structure your paper. Don't feel obligated to adhere too strictly to this structure, but it's one that has a place for all of the elements that you should think about in constructing your essay.

- 1. INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH: DEFINING YOUR TERMS AND SETTING THE PARAMETERS FOR YOUR ESSAY.** This paragraph is the part of your essay where you focus your reader on the ideas that you'll be discussing in your essay. Instead of simply summarizing the plot and setting of your text in a decontextualized (and therefore useless) way, use this space in your paper to establish the groundwork and the assumptions of your argument.
 - a. What are the central beliefs of the philosophy?** Define the philosophy.
 - b. In general, what do these have to do with Kafka's *Metamorphosis*?** Relate them briefly to *Metamorphosis* in order to introduce the points you'll make earlier.
 - c. Thesis statement** This is the most important part of your paper, so it has its own handout.

2. BODY PARAGRAPHS: MAIN SUPPORTING POINTS

- a. Topic sentence** This is a miniature thesis statement, so the same general principles apply as those which apply to the thesis. Topic sentences are the building blocks of your thesis and provide the structure of your argument. For *this* paper, your topic sentences should connect a specific aspect/belief of the movement you're talking about to some specific aspect of Kafka's style, character, tone, etc.
Example—The conspicuous lack of explanation accompanying Gregor's mysterious transformation correlates with the existentialist belief in the absurdity of the universe.
- b. Concrete Detail A**
 - i. Textual evidence, a quote, a passage, an event. Weave the quote/passage into a sentence, don't just plop it in. The reason that you're using the quote should be obvious in the sentence.**
 - ii. Explanation** of the passage, quote, event—analyze specific word choice, tone of passage, characterization, etc. If you quote one sentence, you should have roughly three sentences of analysis. This seems arbitrary, but it's meant to force you to think more deeply, and to push yourself to the depths of real analysis.

{REPEAT AS NECESSARY 2-3 PIECES OF EVIDENCE SUPPORTING EACH MAIN POINT}

- c. Closing sentence** This sentence should synthesize the argument that you made in this paragraph and/or serve as a transition between the ideas discussed in this paragraph and the next.

{REPEAT AS NECESSARY}

3. CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH:

- a. Restate your thesis**
- b. Summarize your main points**
- c. Connect your argument to the "big picture" implications it has. The "SO WHAT" factor.**

OUTLINE ORGANIZER

THESIS STATEMENT: What will you prove in your paper?

WHAT RELEVANT TERMS/BACKGROUND DO YOU NEED IN YOUR INTRODUCTION TO ESTABLISH THIS?

MSP #1: TOPIC SENTENCE What will you prove in this paragraph? This sentence should relate directly and explicitly to your thesis statement.

CITATION/QUOTE 1 (PAGE #)

CITATION/QUOTE 2 (PAGE #)

CITATION/QUOTE 3 (PAGE #)

MSP #2: TOPIC SENTENCE What will you prove in this paragraph? This sentence should relate directly and explicitly to your thesis statement.

CITATION/QUOTE 1 (PAGE #)

CITATION/QUOTE 2 (PAGE #)

CITATION/QUOTE 3 (PAGE #)

MSP #3: TOPIC SENTENCE What will you prove in this paragraph? This sentence should relate directly and explicitly to your thesis statement.

CITATION/QUOTE 1 (PAGE #)

CITATION/QUOTE 2 (PAGE #)

CITATION/QUOTE 3 (PAGE #)

CONCLUSION: The “so what” section—wrap it all back together!