

1.6 Personal Response Essay Planning Sheet

Essay Question

Write your chosen essential question from the list.

Organizational Plan

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

This paragraph must grab the reader's attention and show the reader a preview of what's to come. Your thesis should appear here as well.

Hook:

For your hook, use a quotation, an anecdote (a very short story), a provocative question, a series of strong statements, a statistic, or anything to catch your readers' interest in the topic.

Background Information:

Prepare your audience for the body paragraphs by mentioning any stories that you'll be discussing in the body (whether these are true stories, hypothetical stories, personal stories, stories from the media, etc.). Don't give much detail here. When you write your introductory paragraph, tie your reference to the story, the hook, and the thesis together smoothly.

Thesis Statement:

BODY PARAGRAPH ONE

The job of the body paragraphs is to prove your thesis with concrete details. Decide which texts and/or personal stories you will use in each paragraph to prove your thesis.

Topic Sentence:

This sentence tells the readers about information in the first body paragraph and connects in an obvious way to the thesis.

NOTE: Each body paragraph needs a clear **purpose**. How are you going to organize your essay into three or more separate body paragraphs? Even if your body is one long story, it needs an organizational plan.

Supporting Example(s) as Evidence:

Provide evidence from your personal story/stories to support your topic sentences. Briefly describe which story or stories you plan to include here to support your topic sentence.

Supporting Explanation:

Explain how your evidence above supports the idea expressed in your topic sentence. Show some insight; don't simply state the obvious.

BODY PARAGRAPH TWO

Topic Sentence:

Supporting Example(s) as Evidence:

Supporting Explanation:

BODY PARAGRAPH THREE

Topic Sentence:

Supporting Example(s) as Evidence:

Supporting Explanation:

CONCLUSION

The goal of this final paragraph is to leave the reader thinking about your essay long after he or she has put it down. Think of it as a lawyer's closing argument—it must remind the jury of the strong evidence in a powerful and interesting way.

Restate The Thesis in New Words:

Essay Wrap-Up:

Include either a **So-What Statement**, a **Summary of Key Ideas**, and/or a **Call to Action**. Describe in detail what you plan to do. Don't simply write your "So-What Statement." Explain it.

Clincher:

This is where you persuade your audience that your opinion has value. Say something creative or powerful (like in your hook) to emphasize your message. You might even refer to the hook you used in the introduction.