

## Example Paragraph (using the dime novel *California Joe, The Mysterious Plainsman*)

One of the most obvious attributes of dime novels is the highly stereotyped gender-roles of their characters. Over the course of the nineteenth century, the typical heroic male in these novels changes from a rugged individualist who respects (but stands apart) from traditional “womanly” values to a violent alpha-male who lives by the law of the gun (Johnson 501), reacting to what Susan Lee Johnson calls the “late nineteenth-century ‘crisis of manliness’” in which the Western frontier was no longer perceived as an exclusively “male preserve” (497). Although *California Joe, The Mysterious Plainsman* cannot be dated with any certainty (dime novels are often undated and unsigned), it straddles these worldviews, occupying a transitional state between the two extremes. For example, in a curious episode toward the end of the novel, California Joe rescues a white settler, twelve-year-old Maggie Reynolds, held captive in a Cheyenne village. As the rescue occurs during a rare moment of peace between the two cultures, California Joe agrees to pay the Cheyenne ransom: “the ears of the white warrior.” Even though Maggie objects to the gruesome trade (“No, no, let me stay here, for I am happy here; I do not wish to go home!”), California Joe stoically submits to the operation, retrieves the captured child, and returns Maggie home to her grateful parents. Although Maggie is portrayed as completely helpless, notice that California Joe does not intrude upon the Native village six-shooters ablaze. Instead, in a near-parody of the ideal gentleman, California Joe suffers in silence, even replying, “Thankee, Injun,” when the operation is complete. The casual violence is, of course, all the more striking by California Joe’s resignation to its pain, confirming his masculine role as both protector and agent of action within the narrative.

### TOPIC SENTENCE

You identify one characteristic of this type of fiction. (one sentence)

### DISCUSSION OF WHAT THIS CHARACTERISTIC LOOKS LIKE IN THIS TYPE OF FICTION

This is where you summarize what you learned in your research. Quotes should be short (a phrase instead of a sentence). (one - three sentences)

### SUMMARY OF A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE FROM YOUR READING

(one - two sentences)

### DISCUSSION OF HOW THIS EXAMPLE FITS THE GENERAL PATTERN (FROM THE FIRST PART OF THE PARAGRAPH)

This should include a quote from the story. (one - three sentences)

Johnson, Susan Lee. "A Memory Sweet to Soldiers": The Significance of Gender in the History of the American West." *The Western Historical Quarterly* 24.4 (Nov. 1993): 495-51.

### Introducing Expert Opinions

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When writing of _____, _____ writes/notes/explains/argues _____</li> <li>• Explaining how _____, author/critic _____ writes/argues</li> <li>• In an article/book entitled _____, _____ writes/notes/maintains</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been observed that _____. _____ explains by writing/noting _____</li> <li>• Author/critic _____ claims _____, writing, "_____"</li> <li>• Author/critic believes _____; s/he writes, "_____"</li> <li>• According to _____</li> </ul> |
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### Example Transition Statements to an Example from the Story

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one way/example</li> <li>• this is like</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for example/instance</li> <li>• these characteristics can be seen in</li> </ul> |
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