

Sample Structures for Four Paragraph Papers

Before/After

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Up until X moment, Y is true (Y=an interpretation, not an event)
- III. After X moment, Z is true (Z=an interpretation, not an event)
- IV. Change shows Theme (from thesis)

Character Arc (internal)

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Character X can be described as _____
- III. This causes internal conflict Y
- IV. The resolution (or non-resolution) of conflict Y shows Theme (from thesis)

Character Arc (external)

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Character X can be described as _____
- III. This causes external conflict Y
- IV. The resolution (or non-resolution) of conflict Y shows Theme (from thesis)

Cause/Effect

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. X is true
- III. X causes Y
- IV. Y shows Theme (from thesis)

Misdirection

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. For the reader, up until X moment, Y seems true (Y=a perception)
- III. After X moment, Z seems true (Z=a perception)
- IV. Change in perception shows Theme (from thesis)

Contrast

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Concept X
- III. Contrasts with Concept Y
- IV. Difference (and preference for X or Y) shows Theme (from thesis)

Comparison

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Concept X
- III. Compares with Concept Y
- IV. Comparison (the fact that they are equivalent) shows Theme (from thesis)

Relationship

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Concept X
- III. Concept X is related to Concept Y
- IV. The surprising relationship between the two shows Theme (from thesis)

Characterization (complexity)

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Character X can be described as _____
- III. Character X can also be described as _____ (contradictory)
- IV. This ambiguity shows Theme (from thesis)

Characterization (growth)

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Up until X moment, Concept Y can be described as _____
- III. After X moment, Concept Y can be described as _____
- IV. Change in characterization shows Theme (from thesis)

Critique

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Dominant structure X is characterized as _____
- III. Concept/Character Y is used to criticize it by _____
- IV. This critique shows Theme (from thesis)

Expectation/Reality

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Expectation/Appearance
- III. Expectation/Appearance reversed
- IV. The gap between the two shows Theme (from thesis)

Problem/Solution

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. X causes problem Y
- III. Problem Y is solved/not solved by Z
- IV. The resolution (or non-resolution) of problem Y shows Theme (from thesis)

Detail

- I. Intro and thesis
- II. Status quo in text is X
- III. X is disrupted by Concept Y
- IV. That this happens shows Theme (from thesis)