

## Formal Literary Paragraph Structure

### 1. Topic Sentence:

- *state the author, the title of the text, and your main point*
- *your main point should fully address the question, referencing all key words*

### 2. Supporting Details:

#### Assertion #1

- *provide an example from the text to support your main point.*

#### Citation/Evidence #1

- *elaborate on this example through a direct quote from the text*

#### Explanation #1

- *explains how your citation supports your assertion & topic sentence, as well as answer the question*

#### Assertion #2

- *provide an example from the text to support your main point*

#### Citation/Evidence #2

- *elaborate on this example through a direct quote from the text*

#### Explanation #2

- *explains how your citation supports your assertion & topic sentence, as well as answers the question*

#### Assertion #3

- *provide an example from the text to support your main point*

#### Citation/Evidence #3

- *elaborate on this example through a direct quote from the text*

#### Explanation #3

- *explains how your citation supports your assertion & topic sentence, as well as answers the question*

### 3. Concluding Sentence:

- *Restate the title of the novel.*
- *Restate key words from the assignment question/topic.*
- *State what can be learned from exploring the question in relation to the text.*

\*\*\*See colour coded paragraph sample on the following page.

## Intolerance in "The Chrysalids"

In "The Chrysalids," a novel by John Wyndham, intolerance is ingrained into society's mindset and anything differing is condemned. The novel is centered around a major conflict of beliefs amongst three major communities – Waknuk, the Fringes, and Sealand – and each of these societies practice intolerance in one way or another. To begin, intolerance is most visible in this novel within the Waknuk civilization. More specifically, we see intolerance promoted through the character of Joseph Storm, who strictly enforces the views of the bible. For example, when he learns of any mutation, such as the great horses, he orders them to be destroyed. In his conversation with the inspector he says, "one of those brutes could do the work of two, maybe three, ordinary horses... but that doesn't mean that they're right. I say a horse like that is not one of God's creatures – and if it isn't, then it's an Offence, and should be destroyed" (page 52). Even though the great horses pose no danger to the community, and could be immensely useful in completing farm work more efficiently, their mutated size alone convinces Joseph that they are not worthy of survival in his town. Thus, Joseph sees himself and non-mutants as the superior human and does not tolerate anything that does not fit into his definition of the norm, even other human beings. Similarly, intolerance is also practiced in the Fringes. The people who live in the Fringes are intolerant towards the beliefs of the people of Waknuk. An example of this is most evident when Rosalind, David and Petra flee Waknuk, and are reunited with Sophie. Rosalind still wears a cross on her dress, which represents her belief in the "true image" and is generally worn only by the norms. Sophie warns Rosalind of the following: "You must get rid of that cross... women in the Fringes do not feel that it has served us very well. The men resent it too... They don't like much insistence on the true image in these parts. Very likely it's dangerous" (page 185). Sophie explains here that the symbol of the cross is objectionable, as Waknuk's beliefs, and those that represent them, are not welcome in the Fringes. The people of the Fringes consider the belief system of Waknuk to be outdated, dangerous and an inferior mode of thinking; thus, showing intolerance for the beliefs and actions of the Waknukian people. Finally, the people from Sealand (or New Zealand) are also guilty of intolerance. The Sealand woman explains to David, Sophie and Rosalind that all the people who live in Sealand have the ability to communicate through thought-shapes. This is not a traditional mutation according to the descriptions as presented in the Bible, but it definitely represents humans who do not fall within the norm. As a result, the Sealand woman believes her people are the superior species and all others are the enemy. She says, "For ours is a superior variant, and we are only just beginning. We are able to think-together and understand one another as they never could... the enemy of change, is the enemy of life, and therefore our implacable enemy" (page 205). The people of Sealand see their mutation as an advantageous quality, and believe that the views and abilities of Waknuk are outdated. The Sealanders also believe that mutants should be elevated above all others, and anyone not fitting their own definition of the "true image" are enemies who must be annihilated. This example of intolerance is perhaps most terrible, as their intolerance of the norms, leads to a full-on massacre of both Waknuk and the Fringes. Overall, "The Chrysalids" shows that intolerance can be widespread, and though it may begin in one place, hatred and condemnation when left unchecked has the potential to take over every inch of their world.