

Formal Literary Paragraph



What is a Formal Literary Paragraph?

- A FLP is an analytical paragraph that makes and supports an argument.
- You will be given a topic to discuss.
- Your task is to create an idea based on the topic and to find relevant and supporting examples in the text to support your idea.

The FLP is the Starting Point

- A FLP is written using similar techniques to an essay.
- By practicing writing the FLP, you will also be establishing necessary essay writing skills.



Step 1 – Topic Sentence

- Your **topic sentence** must inform your reader of **three things**:

- The author(s)
- The title (s)
- Your main idea



Examples

Author

Title

- In John Boyne's *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* the character of Bruno is very innocent, but also deeply ignorant.

Main Idea

Examples

Author

Title

- In William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, the characters of the Nurse and Lady Capulet both have a maternal relationship with Juliet.

Main Idea

Important Note

- When referring to titles of books, plays, poems, and articles there are rules you must follow:
 - 1) Underline or italicize titles of novels and plays
 - The Boy in the Striped Pajamas or *The Cage*
 - 2) Use quotation marks for poems, short stories, and articles
 - "Jaberwocky"

Step 2 – Make your 3 points

- You want to include a minimum of **three** points in your paragraph.
- The best way to present your points is to use the **ACE structure**.
- You will need to use the ACE structure **three times**.

ACE

- Assertion (your point)
- Citation (a quote or paraphrase)
- Explanation (explains how your citation supports your assertion)



Example

- **Assertion:** Bruno is very innocent and does not really understand what is happening.
- **Citation:** When Boyne has Bruno say “Heil Hitler”, Bruno thinks it is another way of saying goodbye (Boyne, p. 54).
- **Explanation:** This shows how much Bruno misunderstands the situation.



The Quote Sandwich

- Don't forget the quote sandwich.
- Remember that you always need to introduce your quote.
- **When Boyne has Bruno say "Heil Hitler"** (Boyne, p. 54), Bruno thinks it is another way of saying goodbye.

Step 3 – Thoughtful Conclusion

- A strong concluding statement is extremely important.
- You want to **restate** your main idea in a new and thought provoking way!

FLP Structure

- Topic Sentence
- ACE # 1
 - Assertion
 - Citation
 - Explanation
- ACE #2
- ACE # 3
- Concluding Sentence



FLP Example

In John Boyne's *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* the character of Bruno is very innocent, but also deeply ignorant. Bruno does not understand what is happening around him. For example, when Bruno says "Heil Hitler", he believes that he is simply saying goodbye (Boyne, p. 54). *This demonstrates how little Bruno understands and how naive he is.* In addition, Bruno is jealous of Schmueel because he believes that life on the other side of the fence is better. He states, "That's not fair at all. There's no one to play with on this side of the fence. Not a single person" (Boyne, p. 131). *This statement further confirms Bruno's misinterpretation of life in the concentration camp. It is not until Bruno ventures onto the other side of the fence that he realizes his assumption is wrong.* However, even though Bruno's age and innocence can account for some of his misunderstanding, Bruno ignores many key signs that things are not as they should be. For instance, Schmueel is underweight and always hungry, but Bruno does not really acknowledge this. In fact, he even eats some food that he means to bring to Schmueel (Boyne, p 138). Additionally, Schmueel provides Bruno with many anecdotes of horrible events which Bruno ignores. In particular, Schmueel describes the treatment by the soldiers on the other side of the fence. He explains how horrible the conditions are and expresses his intense hatred of the soldiers, but Bruno always thinks about himself (Boyne, p. 195). *This shows how focused Bruno is on his own life and not on the conditions in the concentration camp.* **In conclusion, although Bruno's age and innocence can excuse a certain amount of ignorance, ultimately Bruno chooses to think about himself and not about what is happening on the other side of the fence.**

6+ 1 Traits of Writing

- The 6 + 1 Traits
 - Ideas
 - Organization
 - Voice
 - Word Choice
 - Sentence Fluency
 - Conventions
 - Presentation

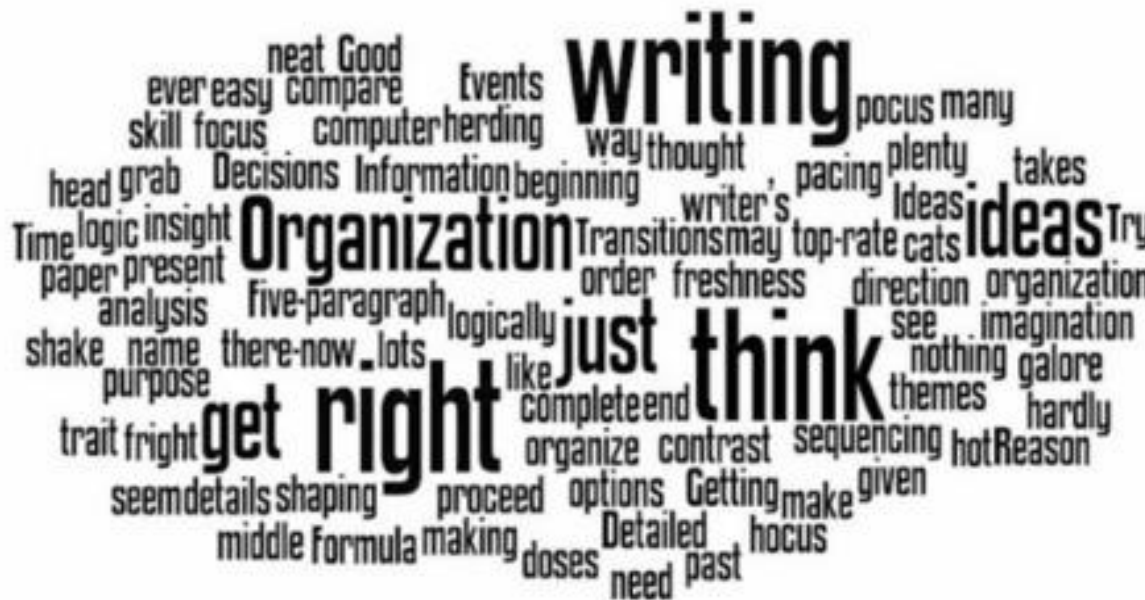
6 + 1 Traits of Writing

- Is a model used to evaluate writing.
- Each trait looks at a different skill.



Focus: Ideas and Organization

- For this assignment, I will be looking at your ideas and organization.



Ideas

- Ideas:
 - The “heart” of the message is clear and engaging
 - Details enrich and develop theme
 - Evidence used (quotes) support the message
 - The message is clear

Organization

- Organization:
 - Do you follow the FLP format?
 - Is your paragraph easy to understand and follow?
 - Do you use transition words?

Formal Writing Rules

- Avoid **summarizing**. You should assume your reader is very familiar with the text.
- Always use **the present tense**.
 - Bad Example - Romeo **was** in love with Juliet.
 - Good Example - Romeo **is** in love with Juliet.



Formal Writing Rules

- Use formal language.
 - No contractions
 - Don't, can't, doesn't
 - Use the **third person**.
 - Do not use "I think.."
 - Avoid **colloquial language**
 - "Like, Juliet, is like, so, totally cool."



Transition Words and Phrases

Example #1:

To be honest, you must tell the truth. If you cheat on a test, that's being dishonest. It's better to receive the mark you deserve and learn from your mistakes. Tell the truth; it's worth it!

Example #2:

In order to be honest, you must tell the truth. **For example,** if you cheat on a test, that's being dishonest. **Therefore,** it's better to receive the mark you deserve and learn from your mistakes. Tell the truth; it's worth it!

Transitions in the Real World

- Look at the example FLP and underline all the transition words used!

Beware the thesaurus

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DW1lxwsK5_Q&feature=player_embedded

Your Turn

- Time to write your FLP!