

Essay Writing

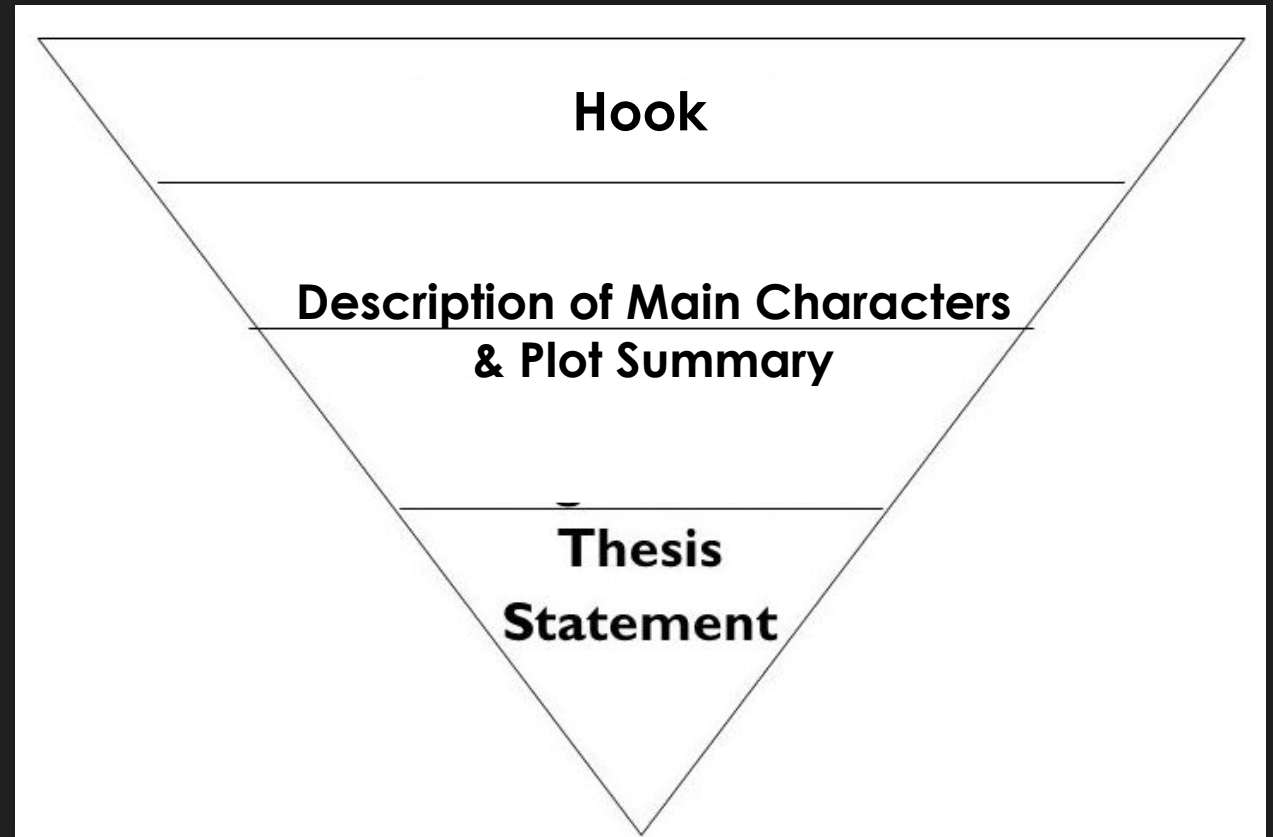
Introductions & Conclusions

INTRODUCTIONS

From the beginning...

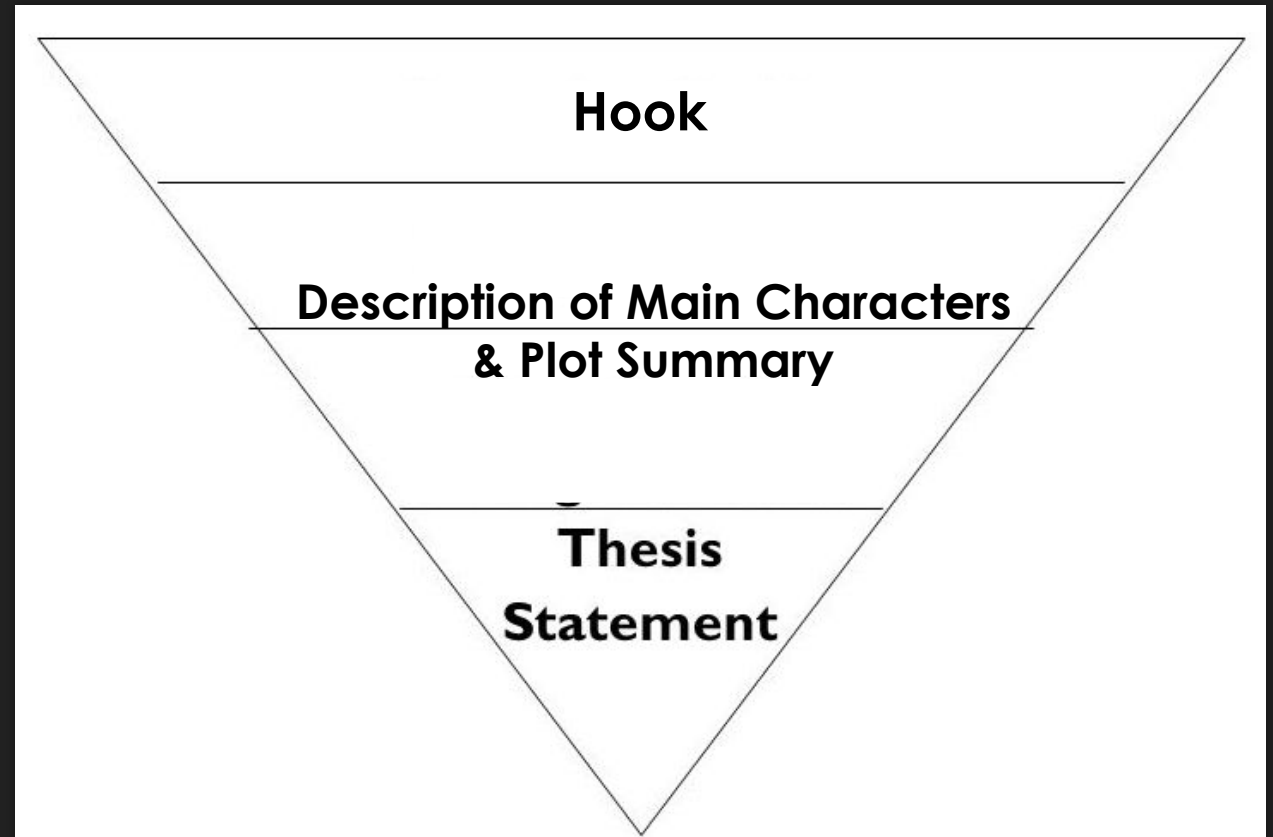
Introductions:

- Your introduction is the first paragraph in your essay.
- It should begin with a **broad** or **general** introduction into your topic, and then become more **narrow** as you move into the more **specific** purpose of your essay (your thesis).



Introductions (8-12 Sentences):

- Your introduction must include the following:
 - **H**ook
 - **A** Short Summary
 - **T**hesis



Hook (3-5 sentences)

- The beginning sentences of the introduction are used to catch the reader's attention.
- Ways of beginning creatively include the following:
 - *A startling fact (statistics & numbers)*
 - *A meaningful quotation (what other people have said about the topic)*
 - *A rich, vivid description (that pulls the reader into the world of the story)*
 - *An analogy or metaphor (a comparison)*

Hook → Examples

- **A startling fact (facts & numbers):**

- For centuries, weapons of mass destruction have inhabited our planet. However, they reached new heights throughout World War II and the Cold War with the evolution of nuclear weaponry, revealing humanity's capacity for technological innovation, as well as our appetite for destruction. This hunger has only continued to grow, as there are currently over 10,000 documented nuclear weapons on our planet; of this the United States houses 46% and Russia houses 48%, granting them top spots in the arms race. Not only that, but in order to modernize and maintain their arsenals over the next 30 years, both countries have committed upwards of 1.2 trillion dollars (Reuters.com, 2018). This continued pursuit of nuclear weaponry—and the potential for mass destruction—has inspired uneasy observers to question how we got here, and just how far we're willing to push the limits of technology and ourselves.

Hook → Examples

- **A meaningful quotation (what others have said about the topic):**
- In 2017, Stephen Hawking, renowned physicist, was asked about humanity's fate in the wake of our rapid technological advancements. He was not hopeful. He stated, "technology has advanced at such a pace that [it] may destroy us all by nuclear or biological war" (Fortune.com, 2017). This bold statement reveals that while humans are capable of incredible feats in the field of technological development, we are potentially pushing the limit too far. Thus, Hawking, like so many before him, warns that humanity is allowing technology not to lead us to greatness, but to our own destruction.

Hook → Examples

- **A rich vivid, description (pulling the reader into the world of the story):**
- A split-second flash of light, and with that the city was enveloped in flames. The fire, both lazy and arrogant, spun slowly throughout the once quiet homes and lively playgrounds. Whenever and wherever the fire touched, it burned. Mercifully, the rains came, but the drops were unusually large and filled with wisps of black smoke. The soft rains did not and could not quench the thirst of the fire, nor could they extinguish the radioactive glow the fire left in its wake; so, humanity burned too.
- **An analogy or metaphor (making a comparison):**
- North Korea boldly declares they are testing nuclear weaponry. The United States declares they are committing 1.2 trillion dollars to further develop their nuclear arsenal (Reuters.com, 2018). As the so-called super powers of the world threaten nuclear warfare once again, each moment that passes brings increased global tensions, and humanity's doomsday clock ticks another second closer to midnight.

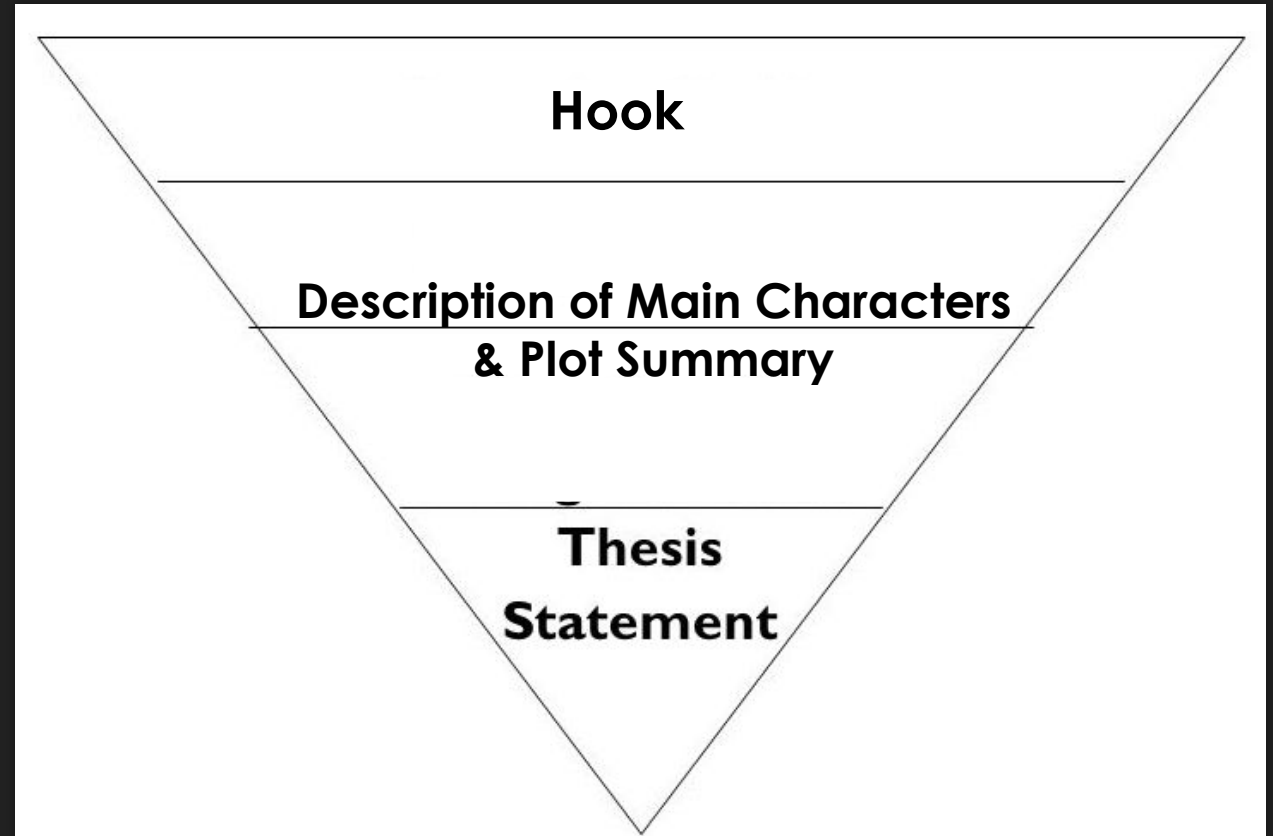
Summary (3-5 sentences)

○ Your hook should be followed by:

○ a **brief** description of the main characters

AND

○ a **brief** summary of the plot (conflict & setting)



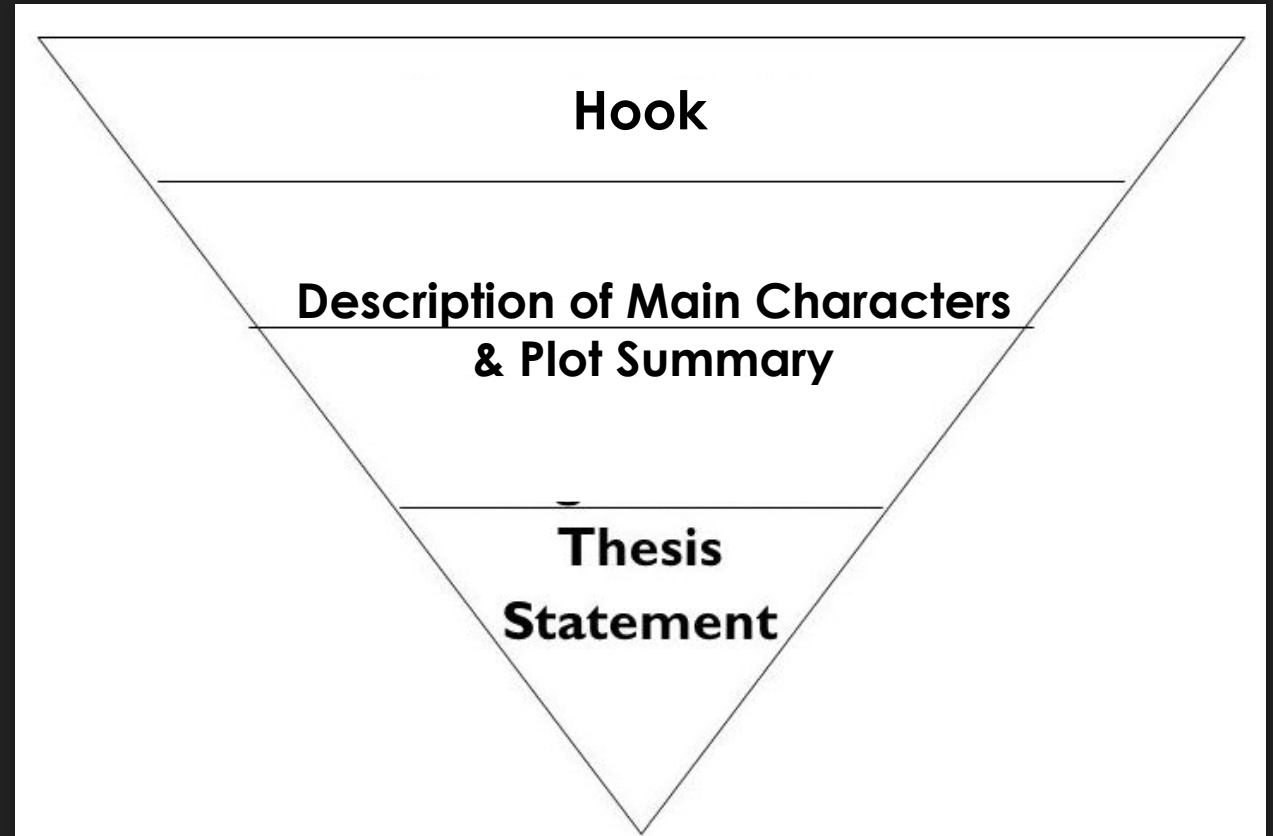
Summary → Example

- *The fears of Stephen Hawking, have come to life in Ray Bradbury's short story "There Will Come Soft Rains." The short story features only one central character: a fully automated house. The house – a beautiful example of technological innovation – dutifully and unceasingly cares for its family's every need. However, through Bradbury's rich descriptions, the reader soon learns that this is the only house left standing, as the rest of the city has fallen into ruin and radioactive decay. As the story's oblivious survivor, the house is forced to fight to stay alive, until it too is consumed by a force greater than itself.*

Thesis Statement (1 sentence):

- The final sentence of your introduction should always be **the thesis statement**.
- Which must include the following:

Type of Text + "Title of Text" +
Author's Name + Literary Devices
+ Theme



Completed Introduction:

- In 2017, Stephen Hawking, renowned physicist, was asked about humanity's fate in the wake of our rapid technological advancements. He was not hopeful. He stated, "technology has advanced at such a pace that [it] may destroy us all by nuclear or biological war" (Fortune.com, 2017). This bold statement reveals that while humans are capable of incredible feats in the field of technological development, we are potentially pushing the limit too far. Thus, Hawking, like so many before him, warns that humanity is allowing technology not to lead us to greatness, but to our own destruction. The fears of Stephen Hawking have come to life in Ray Bradbury's short story "There Will Come Soft Rains." The short story features only one central character: a fully automated house. The house – a beautiful example of technological innovation – dutifully and unceasingly cares for its family's every need. However, through Bradbury's rich descriptions, the reader soon learns that this is the only house left standing, as the rest of the city has fallen into ruin and radioactive decay, including all of its human residents. As the story's oblivious survivor, the house is forced to fight to stay alive, until it too is consumed by a force greater than itself. The story paints a bleak portrait of the future through Bradbury's unique writing style. Overall, Bradbury's short story "There Will Come Soft Rains" uses symbolism, dramatic irony and setting to show that humanity's heavy reliance on technology will be what ultimately destroys the human race.

HOOK

A SHORT SUMMARY

Transitions
(linking phrases)

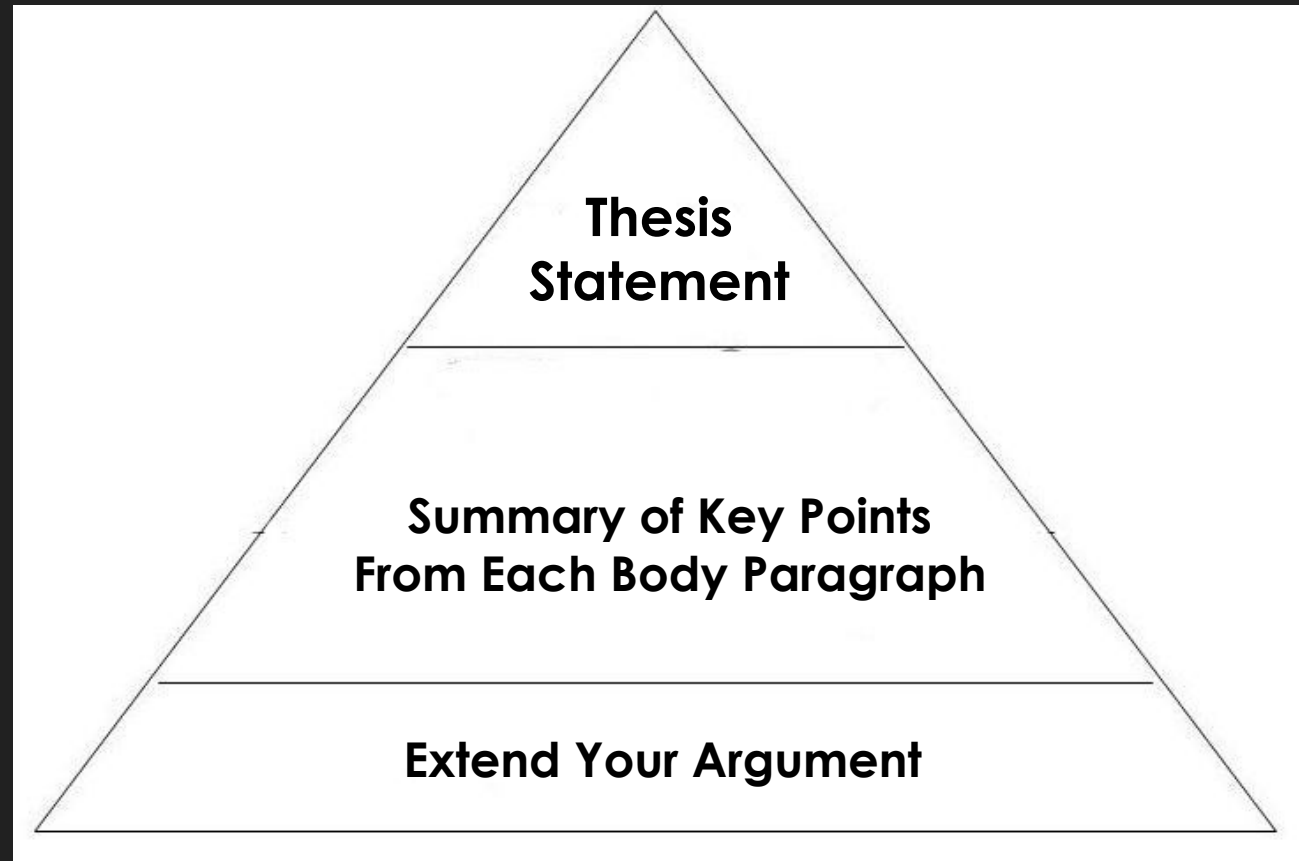
THESIS

CONCLUSIONS

...to the end.

Conclusions (8-12 sentences):

- Your conclusion is the last paragraph in your essay.
- It should begin with your **specific** thesis statement, and end with a **broad** idea about why you think this story is important and what it can inspire readers to consider in 2021.



Re-state Your Thesis (1 Sentence)

- The first sentence of your concluding paragraph is a restatement or rephrasing of your thesis.
- You CANNOT simply copy your thesis word for word, you need to re-phrase it in a new way, so it does not sound repetitive.
- You do not need to include the author's name, the type of text AND the "Title" in the restatement of your thesis, just CHOOSE ONE.

Thesis → Examples

○ Original Thesis:

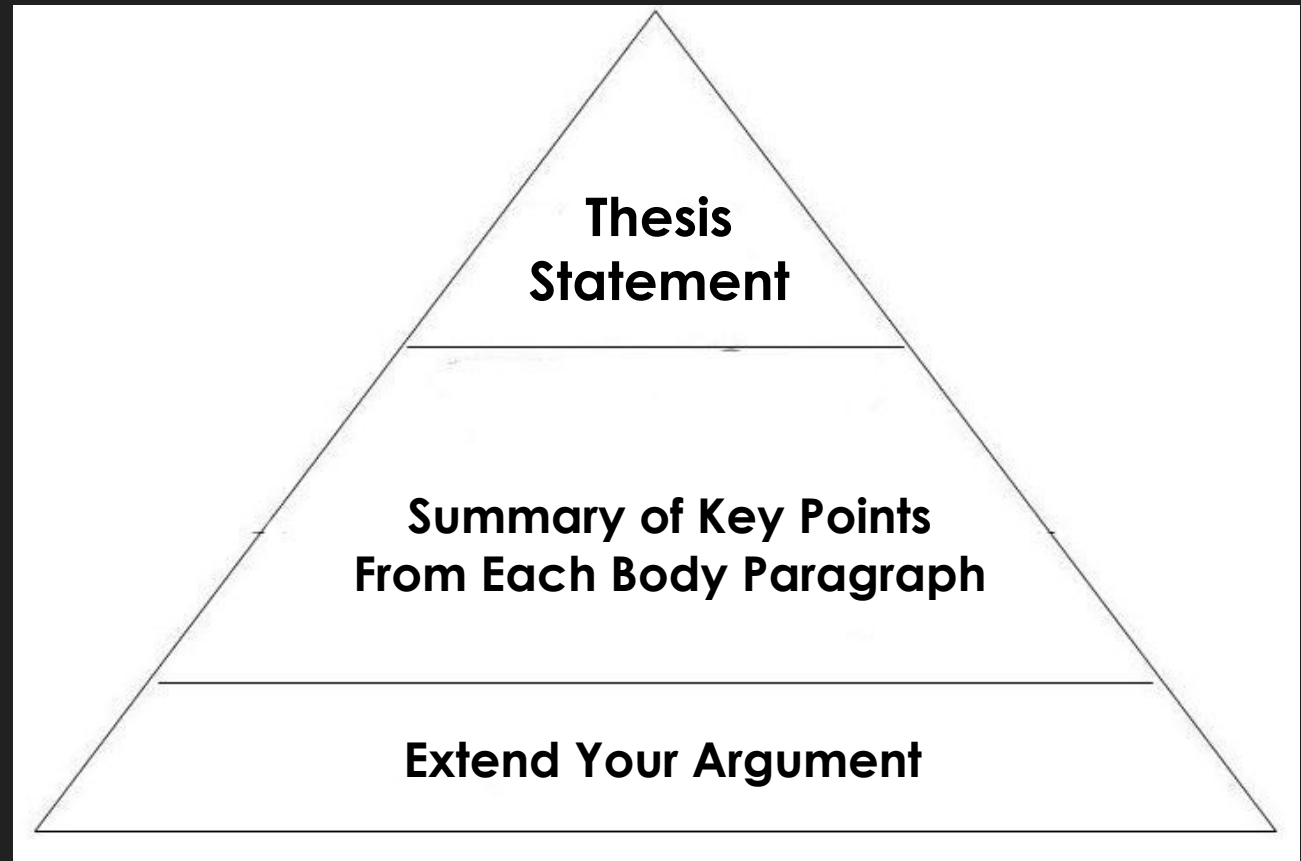
○ Ray Bradbury's short story "There Will Come Soft Rains" uses *setting, symbolism, and dramatic irony* to show that *humanity's heavy reliance on technology* will be what ultimately destroys the human race.

○ Restated/Rephrased Thesis:

○ "There Will Come Soft Rains" concludes that *humanity will be destroyed due to their over-reliance on technology* through its use of *setting, symbolism, and, dramatic irony*.

Summary (3-5 sentences):

- Your thesis should be followed by:
 - a summary of **key points** from **each** body paragraph
 - What have you learned about the use of **each literary device** in the story?



Summary → Example

- *The use of these literary devices help to bring Bradbury's warning for humanity to life. First, the **setting** of the post-apocalyptic wasteland outside the house warns readers of the danger that may result if humankind pushes technology too far. Furthermore, the house and the manner in which its advanced technology allows it to care for every aspect of the family's life **symbolizes** the extremes to which humans depend on technology in their daily lives. Finally, the use of **dramatic irony** illustrates the intellectual limits of technology and artificial intelligence.*

Summary → Example

- The use of these literary devices help to bring Bradbury's warning for humanity to life. *First, the setting of the post-apocalyptic wasteland outside the house warns readers of the danger that may result if humankind pushes technology too far. Furthermore, the house and the manner in which its advanced technology allows it to care for every aspect of the family's life symbolizes the extremes to which humans depend on technology in their daily lives. Finally, the use of dramatic irony illustrates the intellectual limits of technology and artificial intelligence.*

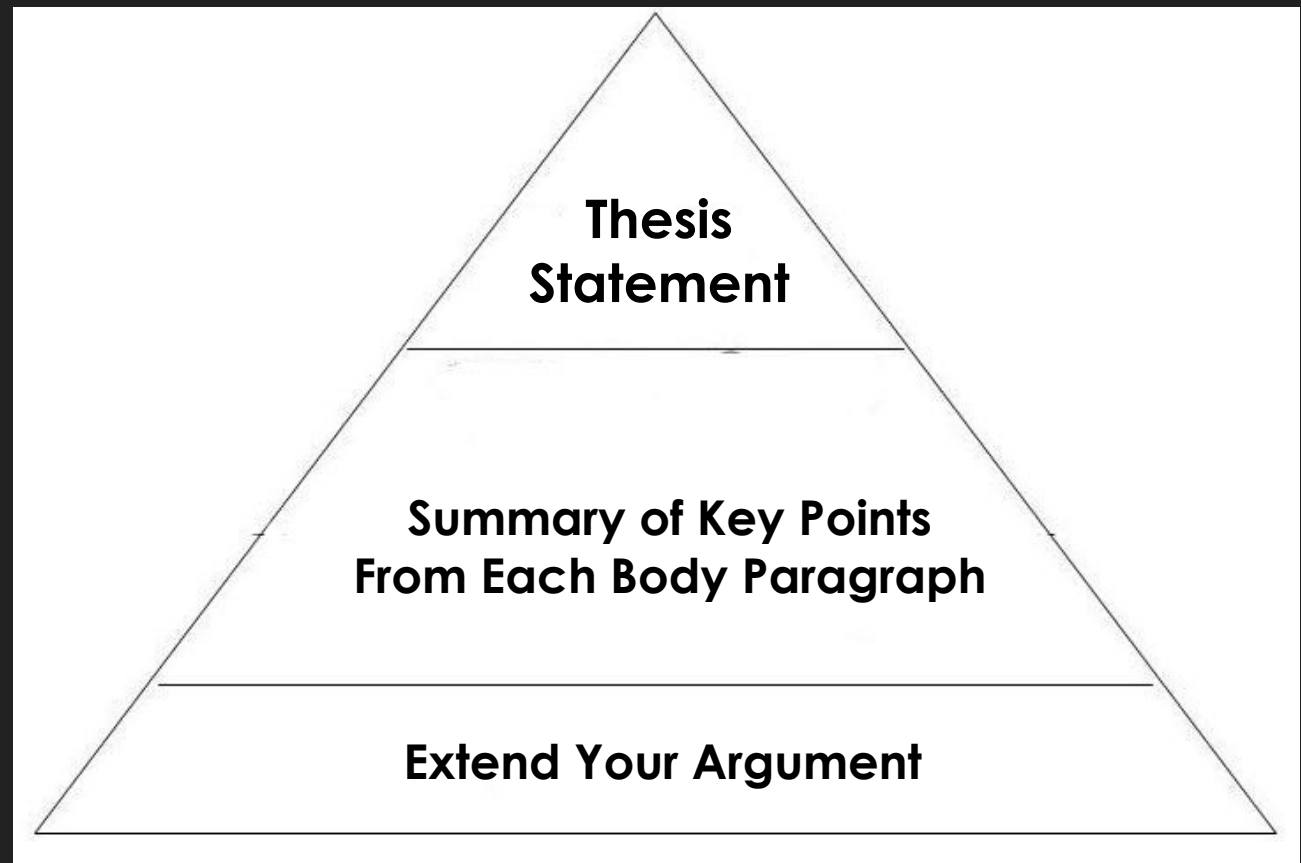
- Summary of Body #1

- Summary of Body #2

- Summary of Body #3

Extend Your Argument (3-5 sentences):

- Your final sentences should do the following:
 - explain why the text is important for modern day readers
- AND**
- encourage readers to consider the larger issues within the story.



Extend → Example

- *Bradbury's story was seemingly inspired by the technological advancements of his time. The story provides insight into the fears that many people experienced during World War II and the Cold War Crisis that followed. However, the threat of nuclear destruction persists today, as several countries around the world continue to build technology to improve nuclear warfare. On a smaller scale, our fascination with artificial intelligence continues, as it fills our lives via Google Home, Apple's Siri, and Tesla's self-driving cars much like the automated house in the story. While these mini-bots may not have the power to annihilate human society when compared to nuclear warheads; they both exemplify Ray Bradbury and Stephen Hawking's beliefs that we too readily trust technology to be our savior even in modern day.*

Completed Conclusion:

Transitions (linking phrases)

- “There Will Come Soft Rains” concludes that humanity will be destroyed due to their over-reliance on technology through its use of setting, symbolism, and dramatic irony. The use of these literary devices help to bring Bradbury’s warning for humanity to life. First, the setting of the post-apocalyptic wasteland outside the house warns readers of the danger that may result if humankind pushes technology too far. Furthermore, the house and the manner in which its advanced technology allows it to care for every aspect of the family’s life symbolizes the extremes to which humans depend on technology in their daily lives. Finally, the use of dramatic irony illustrates the intellectual limits of technology and artificial intelligence. Bradbury’s story was seemingly inspired by the technological advancements of his time. The story provides insight into the fears that many people experienced during World War II and the Cold War Crisis that followed. However, the threat of nuclear destruction persists today, as several countries around the world continue to build technology to improve nuclear warfare. On a smaller scale, our fascination with artificial intelligence continues as it fills our lives via Google Home, Apple’s Siri, and Tesla’s self-driving cars, much like the automated house in the story. While these mini-bots may not have the power to annihilate human society when compared to nuclear warheads; they both exemplify Ray Bradbury and Stephen Hawking’s beliefs that we too readily trust technology to be our savior, even in modern day.