**Outlining Worksheet: Literary Analysis Essay**

This worksheet addresses the elements of an essay in the order in which they will occur in a completed essay

I. title

II. introduction

III. thesis

IV. body/support paragraphs containing textual evidence and reasoning

V. conclusion.

But it is often a good idea to prewrite the parts of an essay in this order:

I. Draft a working thesis

II. Draft working ¶TSs

III. Draft body ¶s

IV. Draft title, introduction, conclusion

Once a draft is complete, revision is next. Soon we will discuss a suggested order for revision.

**Title:**

An effective title informs the audience of the main idea of the essay in specific language.

*TITLE DRAFT:*

**Introduction:**

The introduction guides the audience from captivating lead sentence to the thesis.

Lead Sentence

e.g. Not all poetry about nature presents a narrator happily contemplating natural beauty.

*LEAD SENTENCE DRAFT:*

Textual ID: Identify the text by author, genre, and title

e.g. Emily Dickinson’s lyric poem, “Apparently with no surprise”

*TEXT IDENTIFICATION DRAFT:*

Establish context from primary text: Describe the central idea within the text or the situation in the passage being analyzed

e.g. the poem is not about frost killing flowers, but is instead about the routine and cruel deaths of innocent human beings

*CONTEXT FROM TEXT DRAFT:*

**Thesis:**

Thesis: State the main idea of YOUR essay using specific language. The thesis should present an arguable cause-and-effect claim and may reveal the pattern of development of the argument as it will occur in the body paragraphs.

Sample Thesis structure:

[analytical effect claim] + [strong verb] + [minimum of three supporting cause elements: A, B, C…]

N.B. The order of the cause elements “key words” should be emphatic (least important to most important or least persuasive to most persuasive) and should match the order of the body ¶s.

e.g. The poem reveals the narrator’s horror at the cruelty of nature and disgust with an uncaring God through simple imagery, ironic use of hymn meter, and extensive personification

*WORKING THESIS DRAFT:*

**Body Paragraphs:**

The body paragraphs provide the evidence and reasoning that support the analytical claim presented in the thesis. Body ¶TSs should reveal clear links to the language presented in the thesis. In this worksheet, four body paragraphs are represented as “A,” “B,” “C,” and “D.”

If your work requires more than four body paragraphs, create additional spaces by cutting and pasting the parts of this template.

Body ¶ A.

¶TS = [transition] + [cause 🡪 effect claim]

*¶TS A DRAFT:*

*EVIDENCE (3-5 quotations per paragraph):*

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*REASONING, including literary terms and their effects:*

*SUMMARY SENTENCE DRAFT (restate the ¶TS using different language):*

Body ¶ B.

¶TS = [transition] + [cause 🡪 effect claim]

*¶TS B DRAFT:*

*EVIDENCE (3-5 quotations per paragraph):*

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*REASONING, including literary terms and their effects:*

*SUMMARY SENTENCE DRAFT:*

Body ¶ C.

¶TS = [transition] + [cause 🡪 effect claim]

*¶TS C DRAFT:*

*EVIDENCE (3-5 quotations per paragraph:)*

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*REASONING, including literary terms and their effects:*

*SUMMARY SENTENCE DRAFT:*

Body ¶ D.

¶TS = [transition] + [cause 🡪 effect claim]

*¶TS D DRAFT:*

*EVIDENCE (3-5 quotations per paragraph:)*

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*REASONING, including literary terms and their effects:*

*SUMMARY SENTENCE DRAFT:*

**Conclusion:**

Restatement of thesis (one sentence)

*CONCLUSION ¶TS DRAFT:*

“other” observation (maximum of 3 sentences):

“*OTHER” TEXT DRAFT:*