

Short Paper #1—Structure

Introduction

OPENING SENTENCE: give the reader a general idea of the paper's subject matter. Avoid being too general.

FOCUSING SENTENCE(S): provide relevant background information on the subject (the work of art). Answer the questions of who, what, why, where, and when.

THESIS: present your claim* about a work of art and list your arguments,** each explaining the reasoning behind your claim.

Body

Descriptive paragraph Describe the work of art using the terminology you learned from the Getlein chapters (available on Bb). Start with the stylistic characteristics of the artwork, then continue with describing the composition, color scheme, and other applicable visual elements. Write this paragraph as if your reader cannot see the artwork; use your words to help the reader create a mental image of it.

Persuasive paragraph (argument #1)

TOPIC SENTENCE: introduce the visual element that will be developed in this paragraph.

EVIDENTIAL SENTENCE(S): describe in detail the visual element you are discussing in this paragraph as seen in the work of art.

ANALYTICAL SENTENCE(S): explain whether and/or how the visual element under discussion conveys the concept stated in the claim. Explain your reasoning and/or propose a different approach.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE: summarize the analysis.

Persuasive paragraph (argument #2) Select another visual element and develop a persuasive paragraph following the structure presented above.

Persuasive paragraph (argument #3) Develop an argument around the third visual element following the structure presented above.

Conclusion

THESIS (REPHRASED): restate your thesis

RECAP: recapitulate the concluding sentences

* a **CLAIM** is your statement that reveals the main idea of an essay. In other words, the claim is what you think the artwork means. A good claim is specific and must be debatable. It is usually phrased around an **idea, theory, or a specific emotion**. In this case, your claim should be based on your astute observations of the formal qualities of the artwork and their assessment.

** Each body paragraph corresponds to one **ARGUMENT** developed by observing and assessing a **visual element** from the artwork.

You may use the **thesis template** below in the early stages of writing, but you are encouraged to formulate the thesis using your voice.

The analysis will focus on element #1, element #2, and element #3, to show that the work of art conveys claim.

Each paragraph has one topic and every sentence in that paragraph should relate to that topic. Avoid digression.