

Writing Workshop #1 – Literary Analysis

Kate Chopin’s “The Story of an Hour”

– Body Paragraphs –

Now that you have your thesis statement and your topic sentences, you can begin to format your body paragraphs. These should consist of a topic sentence, elaboration, evidence, and analysis. A body paragraph can contain any number of sentences; however, each paragraph should be focused on only one idea and should avoid superfluity (an excess of anything unnecessary).

A body paragraph can be formatted thusly:

One of the ways in which Kate Chopin creates a theme of a desire for equality in her short story, “The Story of an Hour”, is through her use of dramatic irony. Dramatic irony occurs when the reader knows or expects one thing and the character(s) of a work of literature do, say, think, or feel the opposite. An example of dramatic irony can be witnessed when Louise utters the phrase, “Free, free, free” (Chopin 1). This creates a dramatic irony because the audience expects the protagonist to be grief stricken by the news of her husband’s death; however, she is ecstatic at the revelation. Louise shows her contempt for the idea of a subservient life and reveals her desire to live her own life, without the pressure of male dominance.

This is a fairly simplified version of what can be done in a paragraph of this sort. Sentence one is a simple topic sentence, essentially repeating the argument and the single criteria which will be addressed in this paragraph. Sentence two defines dramatic irony in order for the reader to be fully aware of what it is you are talking about (depending on the audience, this may or may not be necessary; however, for the sake of this essay, I would like you to assume that the reader may need this additional information). Also, you should put this definition in your own words; although, if needed, you can use a dictionary definition (you would need to cite this). Sentence three provides a direct quote from the piece. You will notice two things: 1) the use of an embedded quote; this means that the quotation flows seamlessly from my words to theirs, and 2) the use of a parenthetical citation; this provide the reader with a “link” to your **Works Cited** page, where, if the reader so chooses, they can find the information necessary to look up the quote for themselves (in case they doubt your claims). Sentences four and five analyze and interpret the prior information by explaining how the provided textual evidence is, in fact, dramatic irony, and how that evidence proves your initial argument. Note: there is no superfluous information or unnecessary sentences/information.

- A diversity of language (your **diction**, or word choice) and your **syntax** (the way that you form your sentences and of their diversity) adds to the overall effect of your composition.
- This example exhibits only one piece of textual evidence to support your claim. To be “rock-solid”, one should consider using multiple examples.
- The use of ellipsis (...) and/or brackets ([]) will help to embed your quotes properly.
- Don’t forget your parentheticals:
 - Parenthetical citations will include the author’s last name and the page number on which it is found – this provides a link to your **Work’s Cited** page – *Notes to be provided later*
 - Technically, if you mention the author’s name earlier in the essay (and only if you are citing only one source, you can omit the author’s last name from the embed → “Free, free, free” (1).
 - Once you have used the author’s name, and considering that you are only using one source, you can omit the author’s last name from all subsequent citations.
 - Your parenthetical citation should fall immediately after the quotation, but before any following punctuation.

Create three body paragraphs, one for each of your topic sentences. Once you have finished, have your paragraphs reviewed and signed by one of your peers. Check for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and logic.