Literary Paragraph: Basic Structure

1. **T.A.G. it – Title, Author, Genre:**

Introduce your paragraph by informing the reader of your reading you will be writing about. Make sure you TAG it: **Title**, Author, *Genre*.

**Ex**. The *poem* “**I Rise**” by Maya Angelou is filled with beautiful imagery.

 D.M. Johnson’s *story* “**The Day the Sun Came Out”** is set in the Old West where the characters who are facing many hardships as they try to start a new life.

“**The Outsiders**” by S. E. Hinton is a *novel* about life, death, and the friends who help you survive it all.

1. **TOPIC SENTENCE:**

Introduce your topic by clearly stating what it is & what points you’re going to discuss in your paragraph.

**Ex**. Ponyboy is a round character with three important traits/who is loyal, compassionate, and brave.

The major conflicts in the novel are both external and internal.

The poetic devices are important because they helps to communicate the theme of the poem.

1. **BODY SENTENCES: PEE on it! (Point, Evidence, Explanation)**

**Discuss** your points; do **NOT** just list them off. State your first point. Follow it with evidence - reasons, examples, facts - to prove or show your point.

If you use an exact quote from the text, you **MUST** use quotation marks and you **MUST** include the page number. If you make any changes to the text, you must indicate what you [changed] with square brackets or omitted with ellipses….

**Ex.** Mary forcefully states, “I ain’t going back” (2).

Mary forcefully tells Pa that she “ain’t going back” (2).

 Mary forcefully explains that she’d “rather go with a family…but [she] ain’t going back” (2).

Make sure you explain how your evidence connects to and proves your point. Once you have discussed your first point, move to the next ones and do the same.

Make sure you include **transition words/phrases** to move from one point to the next and to introduce your evidence.

**Ex.** Another…/In addition,…/On the other hand…/Finally…/Most importantly…/For example…/ For instance… etc.

1. **CONCLUDING SENTENCE(s):**

Finish off your paragraph with a concluding sentence(s). Remind the reader of your topic. Link back to your topic sentence. Leave the reader thinking about the topic in some way. Sum up your points in a new way.

**Ex.** Ponyboy is a complex character who has to make some tough decisions and has to face many challenges. Through these hardships he reveals his true nature which is that he is a loyal friend who is both compassionate and brave.

“I Rise” is filled with poetic devices from similes to symbols. These devices help to express the theme of the poem which is that we can overcome any obstacle if we believe in ourselves.

Bebe is faced with both external and internal conflicts that she has to overcome. She has to confront a society that discriminates against her and a grandmother who is too fearful to let her follow her dreams.