ESSAY PLANNING SHEET

TITLE Example:

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| **Significant Quotation:** | From a Different Perspective: |
| **Topic:**  | The Importance of Empathy |
|  | **in** |  | In |
| **Author:**  | **Title:**  | Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* |

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

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| WORDS OF INTRODUCTION- a few sentences talking about your essay topic in a general way- this could be a place to define your terms, discuss issues brought up by your epigraph, et cetera- do *not* discuss the book or the author in this section! |  |
| THESIS- the single most important sentence in your essay!- make sure it is an argument!- use the KISS rule (“Keep it simple, stupid!”); additional info can be supplied by the elaboration- make sure it does not just say “Topic X exists in the story”- mention the story and the author (e.g. – “In Edgar Allan Poe’s ‘The Tell-Tale Heart’…”) |  |
| ELABORATION- a sentence or two expanding on your thesis- it could serve to delineate the boundaries of your argument |  |
| PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT- a sentence outlining the content of your body paragraphs- should be in order! (e.g. – the first point mentioned in the plan should be the topic of the first paragraph, the second point the second paragraph, and so on) |  |

CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

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| --- | --- |
| THESIS RESTATED- literally a rewrite of your thesis statement from your introductory paragraph |  |
| EXAMPLES SUMMARIZED- a rewrite of your plan of development from your introductory paragraph- often includes a bit more detail from your body paragraphs than your plan of development did |  |
| WORDS OF CONCLUSION- a few sentences that tie up your thesis nicely- often a good place to work in a mention of your title quotation! |  |

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|  | BODY PARAGRAPH #1 – should be your second-strongest set of arguments | BODY PARAGRAPH #2 – should be your third-strongest set of arguments | BODY PARAGRAPH #3 – should be your strongest set of arguments |
| TOPIC SENTENCE- a simple sentence stating what your paragraph will be about- like your essay’s thesis, follow the KISS rule for this sentence |  |  |  |
| ELABORATION- a sentence expanding in some way on your topic sentence- some students use this sentence as a “mini-plan of development” for the paragraph |  |  |  |
| EXAMPLE #1- this sentence must contain a quotation from the literary work (do not forget citation – page number, line number, et cetera)- the quotation should be blended into your sentence- remember: the quotation by itself is not the sentence!- example #1 is usually your second-best proof |  |  |  |
| ANALYSIS #1- this sentence explains how the first quotation proves the thesis- this sentence analyzes the relevance of the first quotation |  |  |  |
| EXAMPLE #2- this sentence must contain a quotation from the literary work (do not forget citation – page number, line number, et cetera)- the quotation should be blended into your sentence- remember: the quotation by itself is not the sentence!- example #2 is usually your third-best proof |  |  |  |
| ANALYSIS #2- this sentence explains how the second quotation proves the thesis- this sentence analyzes the relevance of the second quotation |  |  |  |
| EXAMPLE #3- this sentence must contain a quotation from the literary work (do not forget citation – page number, line number, et cetera)- the quotation should be blended into your sentence- remember: the quotation by itself is not the sentence!- example #3 is usually your best proof |  |  |  |
| ANALYSIS #3- this sentence explains how the third quotation proves the thesis- this sentence analyzes the relevance of the third quotation |  |  |  |
| CONCLUDING SENTENCE- this sentence wraps up the paragraph- often a simple re-wording of the topic sentence |  |  |  |

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THESIS: