Blending Summary/Opinion with Evidence from Research

Language Arts 7—Kaye

Whether you’re a writer or a skateboarder, if you want to be as good as you can be, you must take pride in your personal quest, remain committed and dedicated, and embrace mistakes. Through trial and error, we learn, and through reflection and repetition, we refine our approach—making the adjustments that eventually lead to success. World-class skateboarder Paul Rodriguez shares his view of personal drive and the quest for perfection in the Skate Documentary *The Motivation*: “The only way to progress and reach your potential is through internal self-imposed pressure.”

To Do:

1. Provide your summary/opinion of the text (novel, film, article)

2. Identify the quote or excerpt from the primary source document that supports your summary/opinion

3. Write a smooth transition that introduces the source and author/speaker

4. Label the quote or excerpt with quotation marks (signify another’s words)

--direct quote (word-for word): needs to be cited IN QUOTES

5. Proofread and edit to ensure correct punctuation

Now you try. We’ll use this “formula” to build analysis paragraphs for each of the following position paper body paragraphs:

* Societal Commentary (transcend fiction and effects *real life*): use quote from researched article to support your claim/stance\*
* Outsiders: use excerpt/quote from novel to support your claim/stance\*
* “Rebel Without a Cause”: use quote from film to support you claim/stance\*

\*claim/stance = argument you pose in thesis statement/focal theme declaration

Writer’s Notes: Societal Commentary Paragraph

Focal Theme: Lack of Parenting Leads to Increase in Juvenile Delinquency

Points I Seek to Make: $, parents working outside the home, selfish

The cultural significance of the tarnished adult role model, nowhere to be found when their kids need them most, isn’t limited to the lens of fiction, for the works merely mirror the severity of an epidemic on the rise. With some families, it’s a matter of economic hardship, while for others it’s an emphasis on the financial realities that come with keeping a family housed, clothed, and fed (not to mention supporting the intangibles, involved with this lifestyle tract). Simply, more and more—through necessity or desire—are deciding to work outside the home, and effectively reducing the face-to-face time they spend raising their children…and quite often, the overall level of emotional support they provide. As cited by Dr. Laura Markham in her blog “If We’re All Working, Who’s Raising the Kids?” severe mental health issues in children are rising dramatically, in proportion to the percentage of working mothers, whose job-related commitments conflict with “meeting the development needs of the children.” For every Johnny and Plato, characters fleshed out for the page or screen, there are countless kids, according to Dr. Markham, “asked today to handle a high pressure culture, not only with little adult guidance, but without the internalized security and capacity for connection.”

REMEMBER: check our website for notes on Paragraph Chunking (TS, CD, CM, CS)

Writer’s Notes: Societal Commentary Paragraph

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Moving Forward: Your Position Paper Blueprint (A Suggested Template)\*

Fic State -> Theme State -> Trans -> Thesis/Focal Theme -> Outsiders Analysis -> Rebel Analysis -> Societal Commentary -> Conclusion

\* Paragraphs can be combined at writer’s discretion, while the order of required elements can also be adjusted, depending upon desired effect.

Let’s give The Outsiders analysis paragraph a try:

I plan to reference: Johnny and Pony on brink of losing their innocence

(and their relationships with parents/Darry) AND behavior of Soc parents

Only sixteen when she penned The Outsiders, S.E. Hinton certainly had a pulse on the rapidly changing American nuclear family. Whether rich or poor, born into privilege or already resigned to clawing and scratching to provide the necessities, the parents of Hinton’s Midwest Dust Bowl reflect the shifting priorities and realities of adult providers, preoccupied with increasing responsibilities, and their children, who are plagued with insufficient structure, increased boredom, and too much time on their hands.” Clearly, while the parents are away, the kids play; yet these “games” include bullying and violence for sport, alcohol and drug abuse, and various petty crimes directed toward sources of power in their community.

What to do next:

1. Locate quotes from text to support my opinion.
2. Write smooth transition (from summary to quote/excerpt)
3. Punctuate citation correctly

Basically, I need another sentence or two to complete my paragraph