

Middle School Persuasive Essay Writing Packet

Instructions: Have students use their notes to make the essay part easier and faster to complete. After reading a novel, or any other text, give them a packet where each page consists of one paragraph: the introduction format is on one page, the first body paragraph is on the next page, and so on. Have them complete one page each day, unless you have block classes. With students who struggle, instruct them one box at a time; don't move on until each student has a sentence in that box. They'll eventually reach the point where they have written a sentence in every box. When students finish the conclusion page, congratulate them for writing an entire essay! All they have to do now is handwrite or type each sentence from their packet, word for word, into paragraph form and then they're ready to turn it in. Students are usually shocked that the process was that easy! For more advanced students, talk about how they can write either a more complex, compound sentence using greater detail or write more than one sentence in each box by expanding on their statement using more details and specific content.

Prompt:

Who's the most influential character in The Outsiders?

Introduction Paragraph

Each of these parts make up a piece of your introduction! Write each of them together, **ONLY** indent part 1, then write the rest of the sentences behind it into one introduction paragraph. Remember, **do NOT use** the words *I*, *me*, *my*, or *you*. Write in third person.

Part 1: Hook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention grabber, gets the reader's interest • Possible options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Tell a story. ▸ Choose a quote from the book. ▸ Use a thinker statement. ▸ Use a cliffhanger.
Write your hook here:	
Part 2: Summary of The Outsiders	Give the audience the foundation of the story! Introduce the characters, set the scene, establish the major conflict (problem), and include anything else the audience needs to know to understand the story.

Write your summary here:

Part 3:
Topic
Sentence

State the topic in your own words (tell the reader the title of the text and who the most influential character is from the book).

Write your topic sentence here:

Body Paragraph 1: Who Is the Most Influential Character?

Complete the following chart to have every aspect of your first body paragraph. You should follow the stoplight model (green, yellow, red)! **If you choose to add more than one piece of evidence, it must be followed with reasoning.** When you write them together, you will have your first body paragraph!

<p>Claim Green</p>	<p>Hint: In one sentence, explain how the chosen character is the most influential person in the book.</p>	
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<p>Evidence Yellow</p>	<p>Hint: The quote must PROVE the claim. Remember to include who said the quote (not it), the page number, and then the quote.</p> <p>Use phrases like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the text . . . • One example includes . . . • For instance . . . • For example . . . <p>DON'T use the words: "This quote proves . . ."</p>	
<p>Reasoning Red</p>	<p>Hint: This is the MOST important part! Explain HOW the evidence proves that the chosen character is the most influential person in <i>The Outsiders</i>.</p> <p>Use phrases like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly . . . • [The character's name] . . . • The impact of . . . • The effect of . . . 	

<p>Transition to the next paragraph Green</p>	<p>Hint: Use transition words to introduce how the character has another level of influence as well.</p>	
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Body Paragraph 2: How Else Is This Character Influential?

Complete the following chart to have every aspect of your second body paragraph. You should follow the stoplight model! **If you choose to add more than one piece of evidence, it must be followed with reasoning.** When you write them together, you will have your second body paragraph!

<p>Claim Green</p>	<p>Hint: In one sentence, explain how the chosen character is the most influential person in the book.</p>	
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<p>Evidence Yellow</p>	<p>Hint: The quote must PROVE the claim. Remember to include who said the quote (not it), the page number, and then the quote.</p> <p>Use phrases like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the text . . . • One example includes . . . • For instance . . . • For example . . . <p>DON'T use the words: "This quote proves . . ."</p>	
<p>Reasoning Red</p>	<p>Hint: This is the MOST important part! Explain HOW the evidence proves that the character chosen is the most influential person in <i>The Outsiders</i>.</p> <p>Use phrases like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly . . . • [The character's name] . . . • The impact of . . . • The effect of . . . 	

<p>Transition to the next paragraph Green</p>	<p>Hint: Use transition words to introduce how the character has another level of influence as well.</p>	
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Body Paragraph 3: Final Influential Factor!

Complete the following chart to have every aspect of your third body paragraph. You should follow the stoplight model! **If you choose to add more than one piece of evidence, it must be followed with reasoning.** When you write them together, you will have the third body paragraph!

<p>Claim Green</p>	<p>Hint: In one sentence, explain the final big influence the chosen character has had on others in the book.</p> <p>If you want to discuss why some people may think a different character is the most influential, use this CER paragraph to write about the opposing view.</p>	
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<p>Evidence Yellow</p>	<p>Hint: The quote must PROVE the claim. Remember to include who said the quote (not it), the page number, and then the quote.</p> <p>Use phrases like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the text . . . • One example includes . . . • For instance . . . • For example . . . 	
<p>Reasoning Red</p>	<p>Hint: This is the MOST important part! Explain HOW the evidence proves that the chosen character is the most influential person in <i>The Outsiders</i>.</p> <p>Use phrases like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly . . . • [The character's name] . . . • The impact of . . . • The effect of . . . <p>DON'T use the words: "This quote proves . . ."</p>	

Conclusion Green	Hint: Use transition words to wrap up the influence of the chosen character.	
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Conclusion Paragraph

Each of these parts make up your conclusion! Write each of them together, **ONLY** indent part 1, then write the rest of the sentences behind it into one conclusion paragraph.

Part 1: Restate the topic	Restate the topic sentence in NEW words or flip it. Feel free to use Google (sites like WordHippo) to look up another word that means the same thing!
Write your restated topic here:	

<p>Part 2: Restate the thesis</p>	<p>Restate the thesis in NEW words or flip it. (What were the points you proved about the most influential character?)</p>
<p>Write your restated thesis here:</p>	
<p>Part 3: Conclusion statement</p>	<p>Leave an impression! End STRONG!</p> <p>Possible options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convince your readers. • Summarize your proof. • Choose a thinker statement. • Choose a quote that can support, show, or demonstrate how the character you chose as the most influential is the most influential character in the book <i>The Outsiders</i>.
<p>Write your conclusion statement here:</p>	