Sample Definition Defense Section

This section of your paper appears in-between your introduction and body paragraphs

Before moving further into a discussion of how movies use books, it is important to clarify what exactly it is to “use.” Though the possible definitions of such a seemingly generic word are numerous, in this case, according to the *Oxford Dictionaries*, “use” can mean to “exploit (a person or situation) for one’s own advantage” or to “apply (a name or title) to oneself” (“Use” Def. 1.2, 1.4), while *Merriam Webster* supplies the additional definition of “a habitual or customary usage [as a part of] group custom” (“Use” Def. 2a). Any definition of the word “use” has implications of exploitation. The subject, in this case movies, by definition treats something or someone else like an object, in this case books. “Use” necessitates the subject must be of higher status, while the object automatically becomes inferior.

This power dynamic can be seen when use means to “exploit (a person or situation) for one’s own advantage” (“Use” Def. 1.2). A movie’s purpose is to create profit, and is unafraid to exploit the author, characters, or situations and themes of book in order to ensure the highest grossing box office weekend numbers. Movies often take from books in name only, however, changing almost everything else about the original subject material—hence the definition “apply (a name or title) to oneself” (“Use” Def. 1.4). This sort of identity theft is even more abusive than the traditional exploitation-for-profit model of movies based on books, as the true meaning and significance of the book is made meaningless, and its previous complexity and identity ceases to exist as the movie quickly becomes better known and recognized. The worst part of this loss of agency and identity is the repeated and uncaring way in which the process is undertaken. It now seems that turning each and every popular book into blockbuster has become “a habitual or customary usage” undertaken not as an individual practice, but “group custom” (“Use” Def. 2a). Just as the word “use” itself has become almost meaningless and overlooked due to over-use, the true and terrible nature of turning books into movies has gone unexamined as it increasingly becomes common practice.