**Turning Thoughts into Sentences**

**Part I:** Flesh out and connect you ideas.

Step 1: Identify 2-3 topics that you see recurring in your annotations (i.e. do you have multiple annotations on dehumanization? Emotion? Power?)

1. Identify which your annotations relate to each topic by color coding them or marking each with a different number (i.e. put the number “1” next to each annotation related to dehumanization or highlight them all in green).

Step 2: Looking at your annotations that are related to a single topic, what is the **theme**? What is the author trying to say about that topic (i.e. People dehumanize themselves to escape their physical needs)?

1. Repeat this process for your other 1-2 topics

Step 3: Connect your themes. This is your **thesis** for the meaning of the work as a whole. (i.e. if your themes are “People dehumanize themselves to escape their physical needs” and “Emotions tie you to others and get in the way of survival” your thesis might be “People dehumanize themselves to escape their physical and emotional needs, which is necessary for survival”).

**Part II:** Actually writing those ideas down in paragraph form.

Step 1: Your thesis will eventually become the last sentence of your intro, but leave that alone for now. Each of your themes will be the **topic sentence** for a separate body paragraph. Remember that you’ve already identified with quotes and annotations relate to that theme. This will serve as the meat of each body paragraph. Now here’s what comes after your topic sentence:

**B**ackground—explain what’s happening in this part of the passage (the plot/who’s speaking)

**E**vidence—this is where you include your actual quote (in quotes🡪 “ ”)

**A**nalysis—explain what this quote means/why it’s important (your annotations)

**R**elate—explain how your analysis proves your thesis and how it relates to your next point

Step 2: Pull out a blank sheet of paper. Write down your first theme. Actually write a sentence for each part of the **BEAR** process. Voila! Paragraph achieved.

1. Repeat this process for your other 1-2 themes.

Phrases to help you grin and **BEAR**  it:

**B**ackground—explain what’s happening in this part of the passage (the plot/who’s speaking)

* One example of *X* appears early on when *Y* does *Z…*
* *X* proves this when he does *Y*, which clearly shows…
* During \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, *X* is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* (Summary of events)
* Consider \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**E**vidence—this is where you include your actual quote (in quotes🡪 “ ”)

🡪Verbs to use when introducing quotes: writes, states, says, describes, asserts, etc.

* *X* verbs that “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* As *X* verbs, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* When describing \_\_\_\_\_, *X* calls it “\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* *X* describes \_\_\_\_ as “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

**N.B.** remember that you can change part of a quote to make it grammatically work in your sentence as long as you put the part you changed in brackets [ ] (i.e. When Elie is running he says that “[he] hate[s] that body.”)

**A**nalysis—explain what this quote means/why it’s important (your annotations)

* If *X* had wanted the reader to think (phrase summarizing of opposite), he/she wouldn’t have used the phrase “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,” which suggests \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* By using the word “\_\_\_\_\_,” *X* suggests…
* The phrase “\_\_\_\_\_” implies….
* The description of \_\_\_\_ as “\_\_\_\_\_” shows that…

**R**elate—explain how your analysis proves your thesis and how it relates to your next point

* This discussion of *X* is in fact addressing the larger matter of \_\_\_\_.
* *X* matters/is important because \_\_\_\_\_.
* Although *X* may seem trivial, it is in fact crucial to understanding ­­(your thesis) because \_\_\_.
* What \_\_\_\_\_ really means is \_\_\_\_\_\_.
* *X* is only the first step in (your thesis), however, as (your next theme/body paragraph).

Other helpful transition words: Since; So; It follows, then; As a result; Then; Therefore; Similarly; However; Although; Whereas; While; Yet; Also; Furthermore; Additionally; Actually; Ultimately.