

Completing the Fairy Tale Persuasive Essay for the MO-Assignments

Helpful Tips

MO: Essay Topic

- There are assignments in the Mass Media: Offering Opinions related to this essay.
- Keep in mind the prompt:
 - You will be defending the villain in a fairy tale by persuading your audience that he or she was set up. You will have to convince the audience that the villain has been misrepresented and his/her motives were misunderstood.

In your essay you will be called upon to persuade the jury, otherwise known as your reader, that your villain has been unfairly judged and deserves to be vindicated of his perceived crimes.

So, What Next?

- The first step is choosing your fairy tale (think Disney movies, Grimm's fairy tales, etc.).
 - Tip: Avoid choosing *Cinderella* as this was the example given in the course unit.
 - Stuck? Check out this link:
<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~spok/grimmtmp/>

- This is the MO-Assignment: Title.

Defending Your Villian

- Then, determine who the villain is.
 - Who is the bad guy?
 - Imagine you are this person's lawyer, and he/she is your client.
 - Your job in the essay is to defend that individual!
- Think of three possible reasons of why your client is *innocent*.
 - Each of these reasons will become the topic sentences of your body paragraphs.
- Example for Green Goblin, Spiderman's "enemy":
 - He was betrayed by his best friend because...
 - He had a great deal of pressure from his dad, which caused him to...
 - He was depressed and was taking medicine that cause him to become insane.
- This is the MO-Assignment: Planning Document.

Explaining Your Claims

- Select one reason from your list. This is your topic sentence of your first paragraph.
- Write the rest of the paragraph to explain this claim.
- Be sure to provide examples.
 - These examples are from the story.
 - You can also be a bit more creative and include details that are *not* in the story, but probably could be!
 - Remember: A well-written paragraph is usually 5-8 sentences.
- This is the MO-Assignment: Explain Your Claims.

Explaining Your Claims: Example

- One reason why the Green Goblin is an innocent victim of circumstances is because he was betrayed by his best friend. Peter Parker, also known as Spiderman, was in love with a beautiful girl named Gwen Stacy. But Norman Osborn, aka the Green Goblin, secretly loved her, too. Through a series of events that was beyond Osborn's control, Gwen suffered a tragic death, and all fingers pointed to Osborn. However, he would never kill the woman he loved; Gwen's death was a tragic accident and Peter was unjustly taking his anger out on his best friend.

Things to Remember When Writing

- A couple reminders when writing:
 - Use active voice by: Using specific subjects and strong action verbs. For example: The wolf attacked Red Ridinghood's grandmother because he had no choice.
 - Avoiding weak "BE" verbs - is, are, was, were, be, am, being, been.
 - Never ever using "there is/are/was/were" or "here is/are/was/were" or "it is/was."
 - Use spell-check, whenever possible.

More Paragraphs

- You have two reasons left: Write two more supporting paragraphs.
- Remember:
 - The topic sentence should include your reason.
 - Add details, examples, and facts to prove your point in each paragraph.
 - Use transition words and phrases to make the ideas flow together (i.e. however, in addition, finally).
 - Use active voice and strong word choices.
- This is the MO-Assignment: Supporting Your Claims.

Hooking Your Reader: Introduction

- Now, it's time for the introduction!
- First, you need a HOOK to get your reader's attention:
 - Ask a rhetorical question (just don't answer it in the next sentence)
 - State a startling fact or statistic
 - Quote something clever from a famous writer or personality
 - Offer an amusing anecdote (brief story that makes a point)
 - Say something controversial or shocking about your subject
 - Ask the audience to "imagine . . ." a situation related to your subject

Introduction, cont.

- After you have a hook, you need to focus your ideas and get your readers ready for the thesis statement.
 - You should include the names of the characters.
 - You should explain a bit about the story or the situation.
- Then, write your thesis statement: What are you writing about? (But don't write, "I'm writing about...")
- Example: Cinderella's stepmother is completely innocent because...(include your three reasons).

- This is the MO-Assignment: Introductory Paragraph.

Introduction: Example

- Have you ever been falsely accused of a crime you didn't commit? Have you ever felt like no one understood you or tried to see things from your point of view? Norman Osborn, aka the Green Goblin, is one individual who dealt with this. While everyone sees him as the villain to Spiderman's heroic deeds, he has been misunderstood. The Green Goblin is a victim of his circumstances; he has been betrayed by his friends, pressured by his father, and forced into a depressed state.

Wrapping It Up: Conclusion

- Your essay needs a strong ending!
- A conclusion tells a reader what they just read, and leaves them thinking (kind of like a closing statement in a court case).
 - Restate your thesis statement.
 - Explain the importance of why the “jury” needs to find your villain innocent—a few sentences.
 - Last sentence: leave your readers with something to think about (similar to the hook in the introduction).
- Hang on to your conclusion; you will need it for your final essay submission.

Conclusion: Example

- So, remember, a villain is not always the bad guy. Sometimes the villain is just a person who has gotten a bad rap in life. The same can be said of Norman Osborn, the Green Goblin; he is a man who has faced difficult circumstances. His best friend betrayed him, the woman he loved suffered a tragic death, his father didn't believe in him, and his life spiraled into a horrible depression. This is a man that deserves to be applauded for his desire to make something out of his life and that deserves to be understood.

Putting It All Together: Essay

- You are almost done!
- You need to put your 5 paragraphs together to complete your essay.
- Before you submit it, be sure to:
 - Reread your paragraphs. Does it make sense?
 - Make sure there are transitions.
 - Proofread it: Did you use spell-check and grammar-check to help catch your errors?
 - Save it as a Rich Text Format (remember, all documents must be saved as RTF before submitting).
 - Check out the rubric (there's a link in the section...click on it!).
- You're ready to submit!
- This is the MO-Assignment: Essay.

Questions?

- If you have a question, I'm just a click away!
 - Click on the blue "Messages" tab and select me as the recipient. I'll get back to you as soon as I can!
 - Click on the blue "IM Ms. B!" button...if I'm online, send me an instant message for a quick response!
- Also, check your feedback for each assignment.
 - There may be some helpful tips in your feedback that will help you improve your paragraphs for the final draft.
- Good luck! I know you can do it!