# Summary vs. Evidence (discussion after AP Prompt 2010)

Many of you, when writing, are either using all summary or all analysis, which makes for a weak essay. You need both in balance. Consider the questions:

1. How can you PROVE whatever argument you are making?
   1. For example, if you say that Chris McCandless was alienated, you must consider what he was alienated from, and how you know he was alienated.
2. How does the evidence your using prove your point?
   1. Continuing the argument from above, you must consider how your examples of him dying in the woods prove that he is alienated (or enriched)
3. Why does your evidence matter in relation to your point and your thesis overall?
   1. Why does it matter that Chris was alienated (or enriched)? Why do we care that he died in the woods?

*Lord of the Flies* example body paragraph 1

When the boys crash land on the island, they are exiled from their home in England and as the story goes on, they move further and further away from the people they were when in the civilized world. At the beginning of the story, Ralph is deemed the leader, even though he doesn’t really choose or ask for the role. Instead, he is voted by the others simply because he has the conch in his hand. Jack, though initially upset at this situation, is quickly appeased by Ralph who asked him to be the leader of the hunters. Jack then goes on to lead his hunters on more and more brutal hunts, until he eventually leaves Ralph’s tribe altogether. He takes most of the boys with him and becomes a tyrant, ordering them around, killing pigs, and eventually killing people as well, such as Simon and Piggy. Ralph also contributes in the death of Simon. This shows that they are becoming more savage and moving away from the civilized world.

1. What do you think is the main idea of this paragraph?
2. What are the flaws of this paragraph?
3. How would you fix it?

*Lord of the Flies* body paragraph 2

While they become more alienated from their civilized world, they are also forced to look deep inside themselves to the true darkness at man’s heart. Ralph can see the boys moving to more and more savage ways, and the reader can see that even Ralph himself, the very last holdout for civility, succumbs to the darkness and savagery. While most of the symbols in this story are of destruction, such as the conch and the glasses, there are several symbols that show this newfound knowledge: the pig’s head and the fire. The pig’s head, which is the beast, tells Simon that the beast has been inside them all along, symbolizing the inner truth that they could not see up until then. The fire, on the other hand, symbolizes the destructive force of humanity, which they can finally see in the end of the story when they are rescued.

1. What do you think is the main idea of this paragraph?
2. What are the flaws with this paragraph?
3. How would you fix it?