Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Writing structured paragraphs

When writing your body paragraphs, it is important that you utilize three components:

* Topic sentence/transition
* Evidence
* Support or explanation

**Topic sentence(s):** This needs to introduce the general topic of your paragraph, though it does NOT have to have the entire argument in it. You should also use the first few sentences to connect to the other ideas of your paper.

**Evidence**: You MUST incorporate quotes and examples to help you support your point. Like we’ve talked about, these should be used in support of our argument, not in place of it.

**Explanation:** This is where you explain your point and the evidence. How does your evidence and ideas in this paragraph tie back to your thesis?

**For your benchmark, you will be asked to write a structured introduction paragraph and two body paragraphs.**

Directions: Read the example essay and identify each of the pieces. Remember, the structure of an introduction paragraph is different from the body paragraphs.

Introduction:

Oppressive regimes have existed throughout human history: from the Huns to the Nazis. Each had their methods of suppressing the people over which they ruled, but none have been as effective as the Party in George Orwell’s *1984.* As depicted in the novel, the Party has total control over its citizens, using their perpetual fear of being found unorthodox and thus destroyed as a mechanism for subjugation. This control can even be seen in the structure and style of the novel itself. Orwell deepens our understanding of the oppressive Oceania by giving prominence and repetition to the ruling arms of the Party in the early pages of the novel.

Body Paragraph 1:

Within the first pages of the novel, the reader is introduced to both the main character, Winston, and the domineering figure of Big Brother whose face is on the giant poster outside of Winston's flat. Underneath the portrait, there is a caption that states "BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU", a statement that is reinforced throughout the following pages. In fact, the majority of the first two pages is dedicated to describing Big Brother's "ruggedly handsome features", "the heavy black mustache" and the "eyes [that] follow you about when you move" (Orwell 2-3). During his climb to his apartment, and even once there, Winston feels the pressure of being watched by poster, and all that it represents. By focusing sharply on this poster, and spending so much time describing it so early on in the novel, Orwell reveals the dominance that Big Brother has on the people. Just as he overshadows the people, so does his descriptions monopolize the narration.

Body Paragraph 2:

Orwell also dedicates a great deal of page time to the three slogans of the ruling party, mentioning them three times in the first thirty pages. On three different occasions, Winston either reads or remembers the slogans "War is peace," "Freedom is slavery," and "Ignorance is strength" (Orwell 4, 16, 27). Moreover, each time he writes the slogans, he separates them out into their own paragraphs, writing them in all capital letters. Considering that much of the rest of the novel is written in long, exceedingly descriptive paragraphs, writing the slogans in this manner emphasizes their importance all the more. This sort of repetition and separation mirrors the connection that most people would have with the slogans; it becomes a chant, mindless and yet powerful. Even the words themselves are mindless in their seeming contradictory nature: War is the opposite of peace, freedom the opposite of slavery. Yet, after their third iteration, the reader cannot help but know what they say, if not what they mean.

Practice:

Directions: Using the paragraphs written above as a guide, make an argument about the first thirty pages of 1984. Your argument could be something about the imagery used to describe Winston’s living conditions, the purpose of the two minutes hate and what it reveals about the society, the Parsons children, etc.

* Write one introduction paragraph (with a thesis) and one body paragraph that utilizes support.