

How to Write a Chunked Paragraph

We are going to use the chunked paragraph format for the second paragraph of our response to literature essay.

There will be exactly five sentences in our chunked paragraph. Each sentence has a specific purpose, so please be careful as you work through each sentence.

Sentence # 1 The Topic Sentence

- ✓ This sentence responds directly to the prompt. State your thesis clearly in this sentence.
- ✓ Do not include any facts in this sentence.
- ✓ This sentence must be in your own words.

Example from the story "Papa's Parrot"

One of the major themes in this story is the idea that we take things for granted until we almost lose them.

Sentence # 2 Concrete Detail

- ✓ Provide an example from the story to support your thesis.
- ✓ Start this sentence with "For example".

Example from the story "Papa's Parrot"

For example, in the story Harry takes his father for granted until his father has a heart attack and forces Harry to deal with the fact that he had been ignoring him for the last few years.

Sentence # 3 Commentary

- ✓ Comment on your concrete detail in your own words.
- ✓ Start the sentence with "this shows that" or "this is important because".
- ✓

Example from the story "Papa's Parrot"

This is important because it shows that Harry needs a major event to take place before coming to the understanding that his father was so important to him.

Sentence # 4 Commentary # 2

- ✓ Say something else about concrete detail in your own words.
- ✓ Start the sentence with "this is because" or "this is also important because".

Example from the story "Papa's Parrot"

This is because Harry has been so caught up in his own life, that he couldn't see what his actions were doing to his father.

Sentence # 5 Concluding Sentence

- ✓ Finish your feelings on the thesis in this sentence.
- ✓ Begin with "As a result" or "Furthermore"

Example from the story "Papa's Parrot"

As a result of the tragedy to his father, Harry comes to terms with his own behaviors and actions and ultimately feels ashamed for what he has put his father through.

Here is the example of the completed paragraph using our sentences from the story "Papa's Parrot".

One of the major themes in this story is the idea that we take things for granted until we almost lose them. For example, in the story Harry takes his father for granted until his father has a heart attack and forces Harry to deal with the fact that he had been ignoring him for the last few years. This is important because it shows that Harry needs a major event to take place before coming to the understanding that his father was so important to him. This is because Harry has been so caught up in his own life, that he couldn't see what his actions were doing to his father. As a result of the tragedy to his father, Harry comes to terms with his own behaviors and actions and ultimately feels ashamed for what he has put his father through.