

ELA 8
Justice & Punishment
Argumentative Essay
Lesson 4: Body Paragraphs

Activator: Review the topic sentence (TS) and evidence. Then, in the table briefly explain how each piece of evidence is connected or not to the TS. **HINT:** there are key words in the TS and evidence that connect to each other. One quote does not connect.




TOPIC SENTENCE: Although both Evans and Hooker are punished with death after their greedy deed, Hooker gains clarity before his death due to the compassion he showed for the dead Chinese man.

- A. “[Evans] lifted two or three gold bars onto it. Soon, he found that another little thorn had dug into his skin”
- B. “Hooker and Evans stood together and stared silently at the dead body.”
- C. “Suddenly, [Hooker] understood. He now understood why Chang-hi was so confident that his treasure was safe. He understood why Chang-hi had grinned”


Evidence A	Evidence B	Evidence C

Relevant vs Irrelevant Evidence



 **Relevant Evidence** is the evidence that is the most important to the author's claim. Irrelevant is the opposite of Relevant.

Evidence that *does* match.

 **Irrelevant Evidence** is evidence that does not really support the reason. Using irrelevant information as support for your reasons makes your answer incorrect.

Evidence that *does not* match.



Proceed to the exemplar paragraph.

Exemplar Paragraph C.E.R Method (C_{laim}/Context, E_{vidence} & cite, explain R_{elevance})

Thesis Statement: In both “Water of Life” by Howard Pyle and “The Treasure in the Forest” by H.G. Wells justice is brought upon characters who show greed and abuse of power, whereas those that have compassion and loyalty are rewarded.

Although both Evans and Hooker are punished with death after their greedy deed, Hooker gains clarity

Topic Sentence

before his death due to the compassion he showed for the dead Chinese man. Greed drove Evans and

Claim/C
ontext

Hooker to act without thinking of consequences and ignoring signs of danger. Led by greed Evans, "lifted

Evidence
w/ Citation

two or three gold bars onto it. Soon, he found that another little thorn had dug into his skin" (Wells). Evans

was so focused on getting the stolen treasure that he didn't even consider that the mysterious thorns could

Explanation of Relevance

hurt him. Evans refused to let anything, even unusual thorns, stop him from retrieving the stolen

goods. Hooker was also driven by greed but showed more humanity when wondering about the Chinese

Claim/
Context

man's corpse. As Hooker began to feel the effects of the thorn, "Suddenly, he understood. He now

Evidence
w/ Citation

understood why Chang-hi was so confident that his treasure was safe. He understood why Chang-hi had

grinned" (Wells). Due to the concern previously shown, Hooker was briefly rewarded with clarity upon his

Explanation of Relevance

just punishment of death for stealing. Along with punishment as justice, the universe will deliver reward as

Transition Sentence

justice to those who deserve it.



Based on this
transition sentence,
what do you think
the next paragraph
will be about?



Directions: Use the space provided to formulate two body paragraphs that support the thesis you have already crafted. Be sure to select 2 strong quotes for each paragraph and thoroughly explain how these quotes support the topic sentence.

Prompt: Based on “Mercury and the Workmen” by Aesop and “Thank You Ma’am” by Langston Hughes, write an essay explaining how justice played out differently in each text.

Thesis statement: (Rewrite from your introductory paragraph)



Body Paragraph #1: Mercury and the

Workmen By Aesop

Topic Sentence: (How is justice played out in this text?)



Quote #1: (Claim/ Context, Evidence w/ citation, Relevance)

Quote #2: (Claim/ Context, Evidence w/ citation, Relevance)



Transition Sentence: (Link the idea of this paragraph to the idea of the next paragraph)



Body Paragraph #2: Thank You Ma’am by Langston Hughes

- Topic Sentence: (How is justice played out in this text?)
- Quote #1: (Claim/ Context, Evidence w/ citation, Relevance)
- Quote #2: (Claim/ Context, Evidence w/ citation, Relevance)
- Transition Sentence: (Link the idea of this paragraph to the idea of the next paragraph)