**11 point paragraph**

The 11-point paragraph is the building block of the formal essay. This model expects you to support a topic with three main points.

Each main point must be sufficiently developed with a cluster of information that follows the “support, reference, comment” format. The key is that you select the most important information for each main point rather than writing everything you can think of about your topic.

As we know now, Aunt Alexander is living with Scout, Jem, and Atticus. Atticus gives his reasons as to why she is there, but Scout does not seem too happy. In order to make this as simple as possible, you have two choices to write about. Remember, you are not just explaining something to me, you are PROVING it to me. No matter the choice, you have to SUPPORT YOUR TOPIC with THREE main points from the novel. Your choices are:

1. **Atticus is NOT a good father**
2. **Atticus is a good father**

In order to write the perfect 11 point paragraph, the paragraph must adhere to the following format:

**Sentence 1:** **Topic Sentence** – introduces the main idea that will be discussed in the paragraph.

**Sentence 2**: **“supporting statement #1”** – First point to support your topic

**Sentence 3**: **“reference #1”** – Quotation containing evidence from the text to *show* ss#1

**A**

**Sentence 4**: **“comment #1”** – a statement of analysis or interpretation that shows the link

between Sentence 2 and Sentence 3. Answers why or how the detail supports the point

**Sentence 5: “supporting statement #2”** – Second point to support your topic

**Sentence 6: “reference #2”** – Quotation containing evidence from the text to *show* ss #2

**B**

**Sentence 7**: **“comment #2”** – a statement of analysis or interpretation that shows the link

between Sentence 5 and Sentence 6. Answers why or how the detail supports the point

**Sentence 8:** **“supporting statement #3”** – Second point to support your topic

**Sentence 9:** **“reference #3”** – Quotation containing evidence from the text to *show* Point ss#3

**C**

**Sentence 10:** **“comment #3”** – a statement of analysis or interpretation that shows the link

between Sentence 8 and Sentence 9. Answers why or how the detail supports the point

**Sentence 11: Concluding Sentence**

**QUOTATIONS:** When you introduce your quotations, you should do so in a variety of ways. The following methods are acceptable (pay careful attention to the punctuation marks):

1. **Introductory Phrase Format:**

According to Romi, “we have a really big problem. That gang is out to get us. To get you. You’re a target just because you’re new and alone” (Draper 140).

1. **“Run-in” Format:**

Although Destiny and Romi had their doubts the instructions on the box said, “only a tiny bit is necessary to capture the memory of a dream, “ but the girls applied the dream enhancing salve and directed (Draper 157).

Note: The citation is placed at the end of the paragraph even though the quotation ended earlier and the period goes at the end of the citation.

1. **Colon/Introductory Clause Format**

Sharon Draper explains the love Julio’s dad has for Julio using the following statement: “He looked at his son with pride” (87).

*Note: If you use the author’s name in the sentence, you do not need to put it in the citation.*

Jessica Simpson

ELA 20

Ms. Proch

October 21st, 2013

Do not Hate Boo Radley

Mr. Arthur “Boo” Radley is truly a kind and compassionate person who should not be discriminated against by the prejudiced people of Maycomb. ///2. During the story, Boo wants to make a connection with Scout and Jem, and he shows his kindness toward them by mending Jem’s pants after they were tore on the fence and by wrapping a blanket around Scout’s shoulders when Miss Maudie’s house was burning. 3. As Jem confesses to Atticus after the fire, “I swear to God he ain’t ever harmed us, he ain’t ever hurt us, he coulda cut my throat from ear to ear that night but he tried to mend my pants instead” (Lee 72). 4. Even though Boo is still a mystery to the children, they are beginning to realize that the stories told about him are not quite true./// 5. Furthermore, Boo shows his interest in others by leaving presents for the children in the old tree. 6. Jem and Scout had found the following items in the tree: two soap carvings, “gray twine,” “chewing gum, “a tarnished medal,” a watch, and an old knife (Lee 59-60). 7. Jem was so delighted by the idea that Boo was trying to communicate with them, that he cried when Mr. Nathan filled the tree hole with cement (63).///8. Scout was also fascinated by Boo’s kindness when she realized that he had saved Jem and her from Bob Ewell. 9. Before this incident, she had been terrified by the idea of Boo, but once she realizes what Boo is really like, she says that telling people about Boo’s role in Mr. Ewell’s death would be “sort of …like shooting a mockingbird” (Lee 276). 10. Scout has finally learned the lesson that one must consider another’s perspective in order to understand him. /// 11. It is truly heartbreaking that Boo was made out to be immoral and incorrect as he was actually was one of the most big-hearted and philanthropic people in Maycomb

11 Point Paragraph Writing

**Topic Sentence:**

Comment #2

Comment #3

Reference #3

**Supporting Statement #3:**

**Supporting Statement #2**

**Supporting Statement #1:**

**Concluding sentence:**

Reference #2

Reference #1

Comment #1:

**I refuse to mark work that is not done to your fullest potential. Therefore, please take your time when revising your paragraph.**

**Revision Checklist**:

* Does my topic sentence state the purpose of the composition?
* Did I select three distinct points that support my topic?
* Did my supporting detail support the appropriate point?
* Did I prove my point/detail (answer why or how)?
* Did I connect my points with transition words or phrases? (see Great Transitions page)
* Did I restate the topic sentence in a new and interesting clincher?
* Did I eliminate all contractions, abbreviations and slang?
* Did I use proper documentation when I used quotations (e.g. The page number in parenthesis after the quotation)? (see Quotation page)
* Did I vary my sentence structures so that they are interesting and not repetitive?
* Did I check my spelling?
* Are my sentences complete?
* Did I give my composition an appropriate title?
* Did I read my paragraph out loud
* Did someone read it out loud to me and proofread for any errors
* Did I look at the rubric and do I know what I am being marked on?