**Developing analysis in a paragraph**

Let’s assume the following is your paper’s thesis statement:

***In the novel The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Jim acts as a caring father figure to Huck.***

Here’s an example of how you might develop a body paragraph that helps prove the claim in the thesis statement. Red = topic sentence, blue = support, green = analysis, purple = clincher

**TOPIC SENTENCE** - The topic sentence is the beginning sentence of a body paragraph. Most often, it states a claim that supports a part of the thesis statement.  It introduces the topic and focus of a body paragraph.

*As they travel down the Mississippi, Jim goes out of his way to provide comfort for Huck.*

Let’s say this is your topic sentence. Awesome. Now you’ll need to provide examples (support) from the text that show Jim treating Huck like a son. Then, you’ll need to show how the actions you cite prove your claim. Finally, you’ll need to wrap up the paragraph before transitioning to the idea of the next paragraph.

**SUPPORT** – This usually consists of quotations, paraphrasing, or summarizing from the text.

*As they travel down the Mississippi, Jim goes out of his way to provide comfort for Huck. For instance, when Huck is sleepy during his watch shift, he states, “I was pretty sleepy by that time, so Jim he said he would stand the first half of it for me; he was always mighty good that way” (Twain 124). Later, as Huck struggles with his conscience, he warmly recalls Jim’s constant presence as they floated along, talking, singing, and laughing (Twain 206).*

ANALYSIS – Here is where you show your readers how you want them to understand the support you’ve provided; don’t assume everyone will interpret your support the same way you have.

*As they travel down the Mississippi, Jim goes out of his way to provide comfort for Huck. For instance, when Huck is sleepy during his watch shift, he states, “I was pretty sleepy by that time, so Jim he said he would stand the first half of it for me; he was always mighty good that way” (Twain 124). Placing a priority on Huck’s comfort by this action, Jim shows the selflessness of a caring father. Later, as Huck struggles with his conscience, he warmly recalls Jim’s constant presence as they floated along, talking, singing, and laughing (Twain 206). Huck looks upon these memories as fondly as a child recalling the enjoyment of his first fishing trip with his father. These comforting, fatherly actions were so significant to Huck that remembering them led him to abandon all doubts about helping Jim escape.*

CLINCHER – The clincher serves two main purposes. First, it offers closure for the paragraph by summing up the paragraph’s contents without repeating the wording of the topic sentence. Second, it acts as a transition to the next paragraph.

With the clincher added, here is what your finished paragraph might look like:

***As they travel down the Mississippi, Jim goes out of his way to provide comfort for Huck. For instance, when Huck is sleepy during his watch shift, he states, “I was pretty sleepy by that time, so Jim he said he would stand the first half of it for me; he was always mighty good that way” (Twain 124). Placing a priority on Huck’s comfort by this action, Jim shows the selflessness of a caring father. Later, as Huck struggles with his conscience, he warmly recalls Jim’s constant presence as they float along, talking, singing, and laughing (Twain 206). Huck looks upon these memories as fondly as a child recalling the enjoyment of his first fishing trip with his father. These comforting, fatherly actions were so significant to Huck that remembering them led him to abandon all doubts about helping Jim escape.* In addition to *creating a caring environment for Huck, Jim also tried to pass on wisdom as any dedicated father would.***