

Strategies for Writing A Literary Essay

- Start the essay with a thesis statement/claim that includes a theme or important idea from the story.
- Locate evidence in the text that supports your claim.
- Begin each supporting paragraph with parallel transitions:
 - Early in the story, (restate your claim) ... Later in the story, At the end of the story ...
For example, one time ...
 - One character ..., Another character ...
 - One reason ..., another reason ...
 - Or use any other relevant parallel transitions
- Elaborate by including specific details.
- Link the evidence back to your claim:
 - This shows that ... (refer back to your claim)
- Conclude by pulling the examples and ideas together and connecting them to your life or to the world as follows:
 - Now, as I think about my idea that (restate your claim), I realize that ...
 - In my life ... *OR* In the world ...