

Literary Analysis Essay

8th Grade

Thesis, topic sentence, quote integration, analysis — with the stems for each.

THE QUOTE SANDWICH (I·C·E)

INTRODUCE Set the scene — who is speaking, and when.

CITE The quotation, kept short, with the reference.

EXPLAIN Two sentences minimum on what it proves.

PARAGRAPH SHAPE

- **Topic sentence** One idea, linked to the thesis. No quotation yet.
- **Context** What happens just before the quotation.
- **Evidence** The quotation, embedded in your own sentence.
- **Analysis** Word-level: why this word, this image, this order.
- **Link** Back to the thesis, and forward to the next idea.

EMBEDDING A QUOTATION

Weak: *Dickens describes fog. "Fog everywhere." This shows fog.*

Strong: *Dickens opens with "fog everywhere", the repetition smothering the city before a single character speaks.*

Never end a paragraph on a quotation — the last word must be your analysis.

THESIS TEST

If nobody could disagree with it, it is a summary, not a thesis.