

Writing an Analytical Body Paragraph

Directions: You have matched up your novel and literary examples with the main ideas of your paper. You also learned how to structure the ideas – topic sentence, introduction to quotation, quotation, citation, analysis, etc. – in a body paragraph. Today you will continue to practice how to analyze and explain how your quotation proves your topic sentence (aka: mini-thesis that directly relates to and proves your paper’s thesis).

Part 1: Organize the structure of your ideas. Differentiate between topics by numbering them in order of how you would want to structure your paper. The thesis is listed below – format the structure of your paper in a way that best proves your thesis statement.

Thesis: While the television show *Supergirl* has its feminist flaws, Kara Danvers is an empowering feminist superhero.

Topic Sentence: When Kara Zor-El is in her true Kryptonian form as Supergirl, she exhibits her agency (control over herself) by taking an active role in helping others.

Example 1: Despite her sister’s numerous warnings to keep her powers hidden, Kara safely lands her sister’s crashing plane.

Analysis 1:

Example 2: Kara also exerts agency when she immediately reveals her superpowers to her two best friends, Jimmy Olsen and Winn Schott. When Olsen tells Kara that he knows her secret, she doesn’t deny it. Later on, Kara decides to tell Winn about her secret – she doesn’t consult anyone and even dismisses her sister’s advice to maintain a secret identity. After she tells Winn “I’m her,” he laughs it off, showing his disbelief. Kara is determined to share her secret in this moment, so she displays her powers of flight, landing in the traditional superhero pose (Episode 1).

Analysis 2:

Example 3: Supergirl stops a car from hitting a family on their bikes, while Superman stands behind her saying, “I’m with her.”

Analysis 3:

Topic Sentence: Whether she identifies with Kara Zor-El (Supergirl) or Kara Danvers (regular girl), Kara constantly reveals and challenges subtle examples of society's sexism.

Example 1: When Cat Grant interviews Supergirl for a major publisher, Supergirl refuses to answer by saying, "You never ask my cousin that."

Example 2: "I wouldn't even feel comfortable wearing that to the beach."

Example 3: "feminist series that's aware of the cultural and political implications of everything it's showing us, whether it's Kara taking issue with a prototype of a costume with a bared midriff" (Seitz).

Example 4: "It's not just the fact that it's a woman (who rejects a sexed-up potential uniform) in tights that makes "Supergirl" feel different from so many other superhero stories on film and TV. "Supergirl" is a series with multiple powerful women who earnestly debate the best ways to exercise their considerable abilities" (Rosenberg).

Example 5: When the leader of the D.E.O. doubts Supergirl's ability to stop a threat, her sister challenges her superior's sexist claim by rhetorically asking, "Why, because she's just a girl?" (Supergirl).

Topic Sentence: While the characters constantly equate Supergirl to Superman, which may seem to empower her, these comparisons actually weaken her independence.

Example 1: "It's funny. That was the first thing he did. Save a plane, I mean."

Example 2: "Supergirl packs a punch like Superman" (Rosenberg).

Example 3: "In the pilot we were determined to never cut away from her getting thrashed or beat up where we wouldn't have cut away with a male character" (Berlanti).

Topic Sentence: When Kara assumes her identity as a part of the Danvers family, she displays empowerment through her development of positive, meaningful relationships with other powerful women – Alex Danvers, Cat Grant, and Lena Luthor.

Part 2: Analyze the examples from the television show by explaining what phrases and actions mean and how these phrases and actions prove your topic sentence. Do NOT merely summarize the text or repeat what the quotation states.

Part 3: Write a body paragraph that clearly and smoothly links the ideas together. Each body paragraph should have:

- 1) Topic Sentence
- 2) Intro to Quotation
- 3) Quotation
- 4) Citation
- 5) Analysis