Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sophomore English, 2011

**4-Part Detail (Body Paragraph)**

1. Argument Statement

* A well-organized paragraph supports or develops a single controlling idea, which is expressed in a sentence that identifies the paragraph’s **main idea/main argument**.
* Readers generally look to the first few sentences in a paragraph to determine the subject and perspective of the paragraph. That’s why it is often best to specify the main idea in a sentence at the very beginning of the paragraph—**the argument statement.**
* The argument statement gives unity to the paragraph by developing one major point suggested in the overall focus of the essay.
* **How do you come up with a sentence that effectively presents the argument of the paragraph?** Try asking a question of your argument sentence: HOW is it true? WHY is it true? WHEN is it true? And even SO WHAT? Your goal is to narrow your argument, and these questions usually help accomplish that. It *can* help to think in terms of **cause/effect.**

1. Background Information

* The argument should be discussed fully and adequately. Elaborate on the main idea and clarify the point you are trying to make. Your communication ability is KEY here. The reader has to understand what you are trying to say; use specific language, (no “it”, “he”, “thing”.)
* Then, as you transition to the textual evidence to support your argument, provide some **brief background** information (also known as **“context”)** for your quote that reminds your reader where your quote has come from in the book.
* Tell the “who, what, when and where” of your quote. Basically, provide important details to remind the reader of what was happening in the story prior to when the quote was stated.

1. Textual Support/Quote/Example

* Select the **best** quotations and examples from the text to support the paragraph’s argument. Good quotations are rich in deeper meaning, not simply plot statements.
* The quotations and examples must prove that your argument is true. The quote you select can also have a style device that further enhances that support. Consider diction, imagery, irony, symbolism, allusion, personification, simile, metaphor, etc.
* Remember to embed and cite your quote: Example: *Jackson writes, “The children assembled first, of course” (517).*

1. Analysis

* This should be the longest part of your detail paragraph!
* Begin with the concrete meanings in the quotation and then move up the ladder of abstraction to explain the connections to the argument you are making in the paragraph.
* This is where you thoroughly explain how your quote supports your argument. **As you write your analysis, KEEP ASKING WHY? This will deepen your analysis.** It will be difficult to answer, but you will be making a far more interesting statement.