Essay

• A coherent piece of writing that gives your thoughts about, and educated analysis of, a subject
Jane Schaffer Formulaic Writing Method

• A method for teaching basic essay writing
• A method of writing essays that addresses the basic requirements of most essays required for school
# One-Paragraph Jane Schaffer-style

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<td><strong>Topic sentence</strong></td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>Concrete Detail</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Commentary</strong></td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td><strong>Concluding Sentence</strong></td>
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Las Vegas is one of the most surreal cities in the world.
Concrete Detail (FACT)

Support for your topic sentence
Fact
Can’t be argued with

For instance, the center of the city is full of different kinds of buildings including a two-thirds scale Eiffel Tower, a giant black glass pyramid, a scaled-down replica of the New York skyline, and a faux Medieval castle.
The whole place reminds me of a big amusement park like Disneyland with its different “lands.”

It’s as if each building was constructed in isolation without any consideration of the other buildings.
Las Vegas is such a strange city, it is hard to believe it actually exists unless you actually go there and experience it for yourself.
Las Vegas is the most surreal city anywhere in the world. For instance, the center of the city is full of different kinds of buildings including a two-thirds scale Eiffel Tower, a giant black glass pyramid, a scaled-down replica of the New York skyline, and a faux Medieval castle. The whole place reminds me of a big amusement park like Disneyland with its different “lands.” It’s as if each building was constructed in isolation without any consideration of the other buildings. In addition, this center is surrounded by a sprawl of suburbs housing close to two million people and stretching out into the desert. I always wonder what made so many people want to live in such an inhospitable place. All those people and houses almost seem as if they traveled across the wasteland and gathered to pay homage to the weird buildings in the center. Las Vegas is such a strange city, it is hard to believe it actually exists unless you actually go there and experience it for yourself.
While we read this together, annotate your copy to identify:

- Topic sentences (find 4)
- Concrete Details (find 4)
- Commentary (find 4)
- Concluding sentences (find 2)

This skilled writer is not using the Jane Schaffer format, so look for the characteristics of each item.

This exercise is worth 28 points (2 points per correctly identified element)
In addition, my mother also believed that I should hang my shirts in the closet so the fronts faced left and hanging them any other way was morally wrong.

I now have a tendency to question the validity of almost any rule I am required to follow.

Her beatings for what was not my fault helped me understand that people in authority are not perfect.

How I react to authority today is partly a result of learning to cope with my mother’s volatile and irrational behavior.

When I entered the Air Force, we were required to hang our shirts the opposite way and this showed me that rules were often arbitrary.

My mother would call to me from the backyard while I was too far away in the front yard to hear her and then beat me for not responding.

These early experiences, coupled with an adult perspective, have helped me recognize people who enjoy power for power’s sake and those who are genuinely trying to create an orderly environment for the betterment of all.

These irrational beatings made me question most authority figures.
What is the difference between reading a story, thinking about a story, and responding to a story?
Once upon a time there were three little pigs and the time came for them to leave home and seek their fortunes. Before they left, their mother told them "Whatever you do, do it the best that you can because that's the way to get along in the world, and watch out for the wolf. He will surely eat you if he can catch you.

The first little pig built his house out of straw because it was the easiest thing to do. The second little pig built his house out of sticks. This was a little bit stronger than a straw house. The third little pig built his house out of bricks.

Sure enough, one night the big bad wolf, who dearly loved to eat fat little piggies, came along and saw the first little pig in his house of straw. He said "Let me in, Let me in, little pig or I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in!" "Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin", said the little pig. But of course the wolf did blow the house in and the first little pig barely escaped to his brother's stick house.

The wolf then came to the house of sticks. "Let me in, Let me in little pig or I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in!""Not by the hair of our chinny chin chins", said the two little pigs. But the wolf blew that house in too, and, just in time, the first and second little pigs escaped to the last little pig's house.

The wolf then came to the house of bricks."Let me in, let me in" cried the wolf"Or I'll huff and I'll puff till I blow your house in!" "Not by the hair of our chinny chin chins" said the pigs. Well, the wolf huffed and puffed but he could not blow down that brick house.

Well, the wolf was a sly old wolf and he climbed up on the roof to look for a way into the brick house.
The little pig saw the wolf climb up on the roof and lit a roaring fire in the fireplace and placed on it a large kettle of water. When the wolf finally found the hole in the chimney he crawled down and KERSPLASH right into that kettle of water and that was the end of the pigs’ troubles with the big bad wolf.
Literary Response

What is the difference between reading a story, thinking about a story, and responding to a story?

Why do so many of us know the story of the Three Little Pigs?

Why do so many children like to hear it over and over again?

Why are we reading such a simple story in a high school classroom?

What universal human truths are expressed in the story?

What human characteristics are reflected in the story’s characters?
Literary Response

Haven’t we seen this slide before?

What is the difference between reading a story, thinking about a story, and responding to a story?

Who are the characters in “The Three Little Pigs?”

What do we know about them? Why?
In the fairy tale, “The Three Little Pigs,” the third pig is very wise. For example, he remembered his mother’s advice to always do the best job he could and to watch out for the wolf. This demonstrates his willingness to consider other viewpoints. His respect for his mother’s advice also indicates his awareness that those with more experience can potentially help one avoid mistakes. Furthermore, he acted on his mother’s advice by building a house made of brick. This took far more effort than building a house of straw or sticks, as his brothers did. His dedication resulted in a much stronger house, frustrating the wolf and saving his brothers. In conclusion, the third pig is wise enough to outsmart not only his brothers, but also the “big, bad” wolf.
Let’s read a story

One person from each table get enough Literature texts for your table.

We’re going to read and analyze a story by Bessie Head called “The Prisoner Who Wore Glasses.”
Literary Response
Build a bubble map of one of the elements of “The Prisoner Who Wore Glasses.”

Character
Setting
Conflict

WOLF

- hungry
- antagonist
- static
- persistent
- flat

“But first, let’s look at an example from “The Three Little Pigs”

Mama Pig warns her babies to “watch out for the wolf.”

Wolf dies still trying to eat pigs.

Went to all three houses

“climbed up on the roof to look for a way into the brick house”

“... who dearly loved to eat fat little piggies...”
Now, using what you learned from our discussion and our concept mapping exercise, you will write a single, eight-sentence, two-chunk, literary response paragraph to some aspect of “Brothers are the Same.” You may choose to write about the story’s conflict, theme, setting, or a character. (prewrite, peer edit, and draft first, then write your final on the worksheet)

_Prewrite - use any technique you wish_
_Draft – write_
_Revise – take it to a colleague_
_Edit – take it to a colleague_
_Proofread – take it to a colleague_
_Publish – submit_
_Reflect – get your paper back and think_
The first sentence is the topic sentence addresses an aspect of conflict, setting, or character.

The second sentence is a factual concrete detail that supports the topic sentence.

The third and fourth sentences are commentary on the first sentence and show the writers critical analysis of the text.

The fifth sentence is an additional concrete detail that supports the topic sentence.

The sixth and seventh sentences are commentary on the fifth sentence and show the writers critical analysis of the text.

The eighth sentence concludes the paragraph by rephrasing the topic sentence and does not add any new information.

5 points per sentence for a total of 40 points. Incomplete sentences count zero.