**Mrs. Dowd *Essay Graphic Organizer***

**Creating a Claim**

Your claim answers the question of “What’s your point?” Once your claim is written, you are obligated to follow through on it in the body of your essay. Your claim should also guide you as you are writing. As you are thinking about your claim, you’ll also need to think about what three portions in the book you’ll be using to support your theme. This information is often stated in the claim, too. Be absolutely certain that your claim contains a theme!

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**NEXT STEPS:**

* **Creating Topic Sentences**

Your topic sentences need to do three things:

1. Include a transition
2. State the topic of the paragraph you are about to write
3. Relate directly back to your claim/theme

**\*\*Try to do this without using overly formulaic phrasing, though!\*\***

* **Generating Body Paragraph Support**

Find a specific quotation that supports each of your topic sentences.

Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph #1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Quotation to Support Body Paragraph #1:

After quotation noun and analysis verb:

Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph #2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Quotation to Support Body Paragraph #2:

After quotation noun and analysis verb:

Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph #3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Quotation to Support Body Paragraph #3:

After quotation noun and analysis verb:

**Thoughts for your Conclusion**

In your conclusion, you first need to restate your claim in new words (remember that you want to avoid formulaic language!)

Restatement of Claim in New Words:

Also, in your conclusion, you need to try to bring your essay and ideas to a higher level. Think about the questions below as you are working on your conclusion.

* How is your overall topic in this essay relevant to life today?
* Why does the information in your paper matter? Why is it important?
* What links can you create between your claim and “real” life?

Reflect on these ideas: