

# **CHUNK PARAGRAPH**

Template and Examples

- ◆ A great paragraph needs at least five sentences

# Outline of the Chunk Paragraph

- ◆ Sentence #1: **Topic Sentence (TS)**
- ◆ Sentence #2: **Concrete Detail (CD)**
- ◆ Sentence #3: **Commentary (CM)**
- ◆ Sentence #4: **Commentary (CM)**
- ◆ Sentence #5: **Closing Sentence (CS)**

# The Chunk Template

- ◆ Follow this pattern to CHUNK paragraph writing:
- ◆ T.S. - Topic Sentence
- ◆ Transition followed by Lead-in followed by a substantial Concrete Detail – T + LI + CD
- ◆ C.M. – Commentary
- ◆ C.M. – Commentary
- ◆ C.S. – Concluding sentence

# Concrete Detail

- ◆ Follows **TS** in a One-Chunk ¶
- ◆ The evidence/proof that supports claim in the **TS**
- ◆ **CDs** are so **SPECIFIC** that you can say on which page it occurred.
- ◆ Always write down (cite) from which page it came.
- ◆ You cannot disagree with a **CD**. It either happened or it didn't.
- ◆ **PARAPHRASE** (put in your own words) **OR** use a direct **QUOTATION**
- ◆ Always write the **CD** sentence in **T,L,CD (author's last name #)** Format.

(4 parts to the sentence)

## T,L,CD (author's last name #). Format

### Concrete Detail (cont.)

- ♦ **T = transition** (i.e. *For example, In addition, Secondly, Lastly,*).  
Begins your CD sentence; followed by a comma

***For example,***

## T,L,CD (author's last name #). Format

### Concrete Detail (cont.)

- ♦ **L** = lead-in **phrase** (begins with a word like *after, when, since, although*). The lead-in phrase “**sets-up**” your evidence (CD); followed by a comma
- ♦ GIVES YOUR READER **CONTEXT**

*when the Prince sends his men to find the lady whose foot fits the glass slipper,*

## T,L,CD (author's last name #). Format

### Concrete Detail (cont.)

- ♦ **CD** = Concrete Detail (the specific thing that happened in the story that supports/proves your claim in the **TS**) **THE QUOTE**

**“the stepmother locks Cinderella in her room and does not let her try it on”**

- ♦ **(author's last name #).** = citation (must use **MLA format**); the number of the page(s) on which the CD occurs inside parenthesis **FOLLOWED** by a **PERIOD**.

**(Perrault 6).**



**T,L,CD (*author's last name #*). Format**

**Concrete Detail (cont.)**

**For example, when the Prince sends his men to find the lady whose foot fits the glass slipper, “the stepmother locks Cinderella in her room and does not let her try it on” (Perrault 6).**

# Commentary

- ◆ The “**STUFF** from **YOUR HEAD**”
- ◆ **CM = Analysis, Opinion, Insight, Interpretation**
- ◆ A person **can agree or disagree with it** and not be wrong.
- ◆ **DIG DEEPER** for **INSIGHTFUL** commentary
- ◆ Gives **original thought** about the CD.
- ◆ Tells the reader **something they may not have** already **figured out**. (**Commentary** does NOT state the obvious!)
- ◆ **MUST** include **CM WORDS** = words with **feeling** behind them

# Helpful Tips for Writing Insightful Commentary

- ◆ **CM** sentences may begin with the following phrases: *This shows that.... This also shows that..., This is important because..., This reveals that...., This implies....*
- ◆ Use **STRONG verbs!** (i.e. does not like vs. resents)
- ◆ **CM sentences** do NOT give advice

# Common CM Mistakes

- ◆ **Commentary** is generic (i.e. *He is mean.* vs. *He is angry to be in this situation.*)
- ◆ **Commentary** strays from **TS/CD** – doesn't relate to **main idea** (apples in a cherry tree)
- ◆ **Commentary** is really **CD** (i.e. *Chewy is 7 feet tall.*)
- ◆ **CM** repeats (ie. *They are in danger.* followed by *They are not safe.* vs. *Chewy protects Princess Leia. He feels responsible for her.*)
- ◆ **CM** contradicts the **TS** (i.e. **TS**: *Chewy is scary.* **CM**: *Leia never thought he would hurt her.*)

# Example: Commentary Sentences

FIRST DRAFT OF **CM** sentences:

- ♦ She is jealous of Cinderella. The stepmother resents Cinderella. (Just ok– need to DIG DEEPER!)

SECOND DRAFT of **CM** sentences:

- ♦ This shows she is jealous of Cinderella's beauty. It also suggests the stepmother resents Cinderella and does not care about what is important to her. (MORE INSIGHTFUL and includes more **CM** words)

# Concluding Sentence

- ◆ Last sentence in a body ¶
- ◆ Sums up your **main idea**, but must NOT repeat key words
- ◆ Gives a **finished feeling/closure** to ¶

# STEP BY STEP

## Concluding Sentence

- ◆ The concluding sentence should not be a summary of the paragraph. Instead it should explain the result, consequences, or what occurred immediately after the scene described in the CD.

# Step by Step

## Begin with the CD

- ◆ Make sure the CD is meaningful and substantial.
- ◆ The CD is the center (literally and figuratively) of your paragraph.



# STEP BY STEP

Next write the LI (Lead in)

- ◆ The function of the lead in is to put the quote in context.
- ◆ The lead in may inform the reader of a few of the who, what, when, where, why and/or how of the quote.
- ◆ The lead in is placed before the CD and ends with a comma.

# STEP BY STEP

Don't forget the transition to  
the LI

# STEP BY STEP

Don't forget the transition to the LI... and the author's last name and page #

# **STEP BY STEP**

Follow with the CMs

# STEP BY STEP

## Then write The Topic Sentence

- ◆ Now that you've chosen a meaningful and substantial quote for your CD, let it guide you when writing the topic sentence.
- ◆ Remember that the topic sentence works as the thesis of a CHUNK paragraph.
- ◆ The topic sentence needs to tell the reader what the subject/topic of the paragraph will be.

# **STEP BY STEP**

Finish with the CS

## Example One

In “Cinderella,” by Charles Perrault, the stepmother is cruel. For example, when the Prince sends his men to find the lady whose foot fits the glass slipper, “the stepmother locks Cinderella in her room and does not let her try it on” (Perrault 6). This shows that she is jealous of Cinderella. This is important because the stepmother resents Cinderella. As a result, she is determined to keep Cinderella from experiencing any happiness.

## Example Two

In **"Cinderella,"** by Charles Perrault, the stepmother is **cruel**. For example, when the Prince sends his men to find the lady whose foot fits the glass slipper found at the ball, "the stepmother locks Cinderella in her room and does not let her try it on" (Perrault 6). ~~This shows that She is jealous of Cinderella's beauty. This is important because~~ The stepmother resents Cinderella and does not care about what is important to her. As a result, she is determined to keep Cinderella from experiencing any happiness in her life.



## CHUNK PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE

Auggie believes that true friendship is unconditional and he must help Jack even if it might put him in danger. In the woods, while at camp, Auggie thinks, “This was the point where I knew I should runaway as fast as I could but Jack was still on the ground and I wasn’t about to leave him” (Benson 266). Jack and Auggie are being bullied by seventh graders after they see Auggie and begin to make fun of him. Jack is on the ground because he defended Auggie against the seventh graders; in return they push Jack. Due to these events, Jack tells Auggie to run so that he doesn’t get hurt, but Auggie, although he might be risking his health, believes that he must stay and help defend Jack.

## CHUNK PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE

The mask that Auggie wears is a symbol of his need to be normal. On the morning of Halloween, Auggie thinks, “I get to wear a mask, I get to go around like every other kid, and nobody thinks that I look weird. Nobody takes a second look and nobody notices me” (Benson 73). Auggie has a facial deformity and longs to be accepted by his peers. Wearing the mask allows Auggie to be that normal kid at least one day of the year. As a result, no one stares at Auggie and other students high-five him in approval because he is hiding behind his Halloween mask.