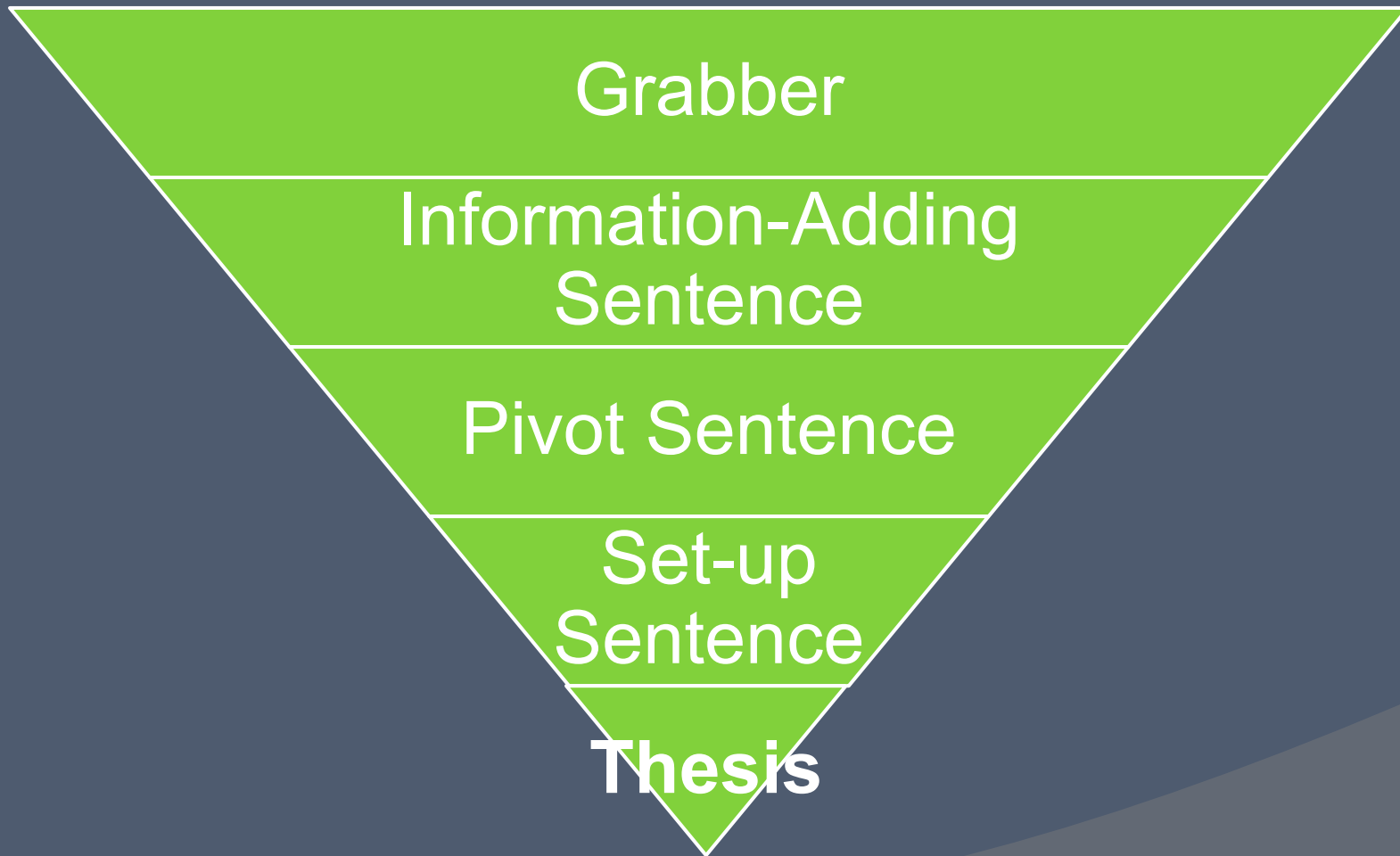


THE CRUCIBLE CHARACTER
ANALYSIS ESSAY

Intro Must Have

- ◎ Grabber (Start broad)
- ◎ Full title of the work (italicized if typed/underlined when written by hand)
- ◎ Author's full name
- ◎ Gist of the play
- ◎ Thesis (Get specific)

Formula for an Introduction



Grabber

- ◎ The first sentence of an introductory paragraph needs to grab the reader's attention.
- ◎ It needs to be broad and introduce the topic rather referring directly to it.
- ◎ (Sample Grabber) Wouldn't it be nice to live in a perfect world?
- ◎ Note: The question is overused. Try other grabbers as well.

Information-adding sentence

- ◎ The second sentence adds information about the grabber, again, still general and not yet referring to the thesis.
- ◎ (Sample Information-adding) In a flawless world, there would be no conflicts, no clashes of character or ideas.

Pivot

- ◎ The third sentence pivots or turns toward the thesis. Hint about the thesis. Use a key word related to your thesis here.
- ◎ **(Sample Pivot)** In our world, however, every situation has the opportunity to become a conflict, and we can even see these conflicts in the literature we read.

Set-up sentence

- ◎ The fourth sentence is the set-up sentence. It leads directly into the thesis.
- ◎ It should contain the full title, author and gist of the work.
- ◎ **(Sample Set-up)** *O Pioneers!*, a novel by Willa Cather, is an excellent example of how we can use these situations as learning experiences.

Thesis

- ◎ The final sentence of the introductory paragraph is the thesis.
- ◎ (**Sample Thesis**) The various conflicts in Cather's novel are tools which she uses to teach us that all relationships depend on understanding, trust and perseverance.

Sample Introduction

- ◎ (Grabber) Wouldn't it be nice to live in a perfect world?
- ◎ (Information-adding) In a flawless world, there would be no conflicts, no clashes of character or ideas.
- ◎ (Pivot) In our world, however, every situation has the opportunity to become a conflict, and we can even see these conflicts in the literature we read.
- ◎ (Set-up) *O Pioneers!*, a novel by Willa Cather, is an excellent example of how we can use these situations as learning experiences.
- ◎ (Thesis) The various conflicts in Cather's novel are tools which she uses to teach us that all relationships depend on understanding, trust and perseverance.

Thesis needs to cover:

The idea that

- ◎ _____'s alienation in *The Crucible* reveals unpleasant truths about Puritan culture.

Adjectives to describe Puritan culture:

(strict, harsh, unforgiving, punitive, extremist, legalistic, misogynistic, etc.)

3 Fully developed Body Paragraphs

- Topic sentence
- 3 quotations with 2 sentences of commentary for each
- Commentary should include analysis of the character and how the character's alienation reveals something about Puritan culture
- Concluding sentence

Sample Interpretation/ Part of a Body Paragraph

John has made it clear that he disagrees with Reverend Parris' preaching style and attitudes, and Elizabeth aligns herself with her husband: "I think, maybe, we have been too hard with Mr. Parris" (1277). This is significant because Puritan belief requires church attendance; the Proctors would be considered rebellious for making judgments on an ordained Reverend.

Embed and Cite text evidence!

- ① Use a correct method of embedding textual evidence.
 - Lead in (Provide context for quote)
 - Use proper sentence structure
 - Use proper punctuation
- ① Cite the page number in parenthesis
 - The period goes after the final parenthesis

Introduction (Broad to Narrow)

Conclusion (Narrow to Broad)

Avoid 1st Person (I)

- ⦿ It is not appropriate to reference yourself in a Literary Essay
- ⦿ It is understood that the opinions expressed in your paper are yours.
- ⦿ **Example Error:** I believe John demonstrated his love for Elizabeth when he confessed to adultery.
- ⦿ **Correction:** John demonstrated love for Elizabeth when he confessed to adultery.

Avoid 2nd Person Pronouns

- ⦿ 2nd Person Pronouns are not Appropriate in any Formal Paper
- ⦿ They are generally conversational in tone and they do not represent precision in meaning.
- ⦿ **Example Error:** In Puritan society, you have to believe in witches because the Bible says they are real.
- ⦿ **Correction:** In Puritan society, people believe in witches because the Bible says they are real.

Write in the present tense

- ① Literary convention dictates that we write about literature in the present tense
- ① Literature is “alive” and can be re-read again and again
- ① Example: John says

Prepare Your Outline

- ① Thesis
- ② 3 pieces of evidence for each body paragraph, organized around a controlling idea.