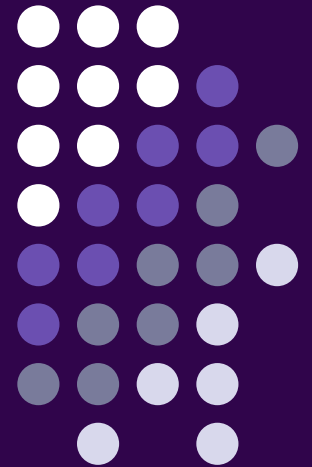
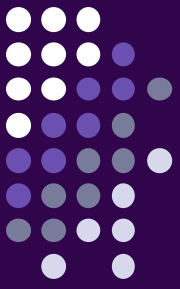


Tackling the Essay

Mastering Commentary





Practice with Commentary

- Of all the skills you'll learn in “tackling the essay” commentary is the most difficult.
- Writing commentary means giving your opinion, interpretation, insight, analysis, explication, personal reaction, feelings, evaluation, or reflection about a topic.
- Commentary is the higher level of thinking that makes your essay an AP level paper.



Ratio

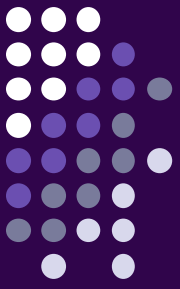
- In your papers, you are required to write two or more points of commentary (CM) for every point of concrete detail (CD) in a body paragraph.

CD : CM

1 : 2+

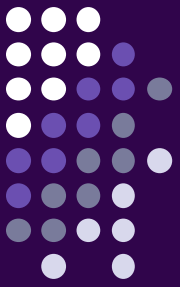
- This is the minimum ratio for body paragraphs that feels developed and thoughtful.

Ratio



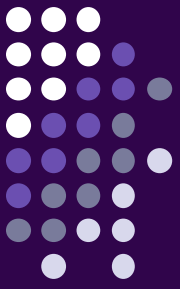
- If a body paragraph has a 1:1 ratio, you are off to a good start but did not elaborate enough on the commentary.
- If a literature paper has a 1:0 ratio, that is a book report.
- Students are well versed in writing reports, Essays, however, are not reports. Essays require **thinking**.

Concrete Detail vs. Commentary



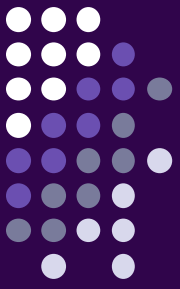
- Some students have difficulty telling the difference between concrete detail and commentary.
- You are determining the difference between fact and opinion.
- With practice, it gets easier.

Literature Commentary is different from Personal Commentary.



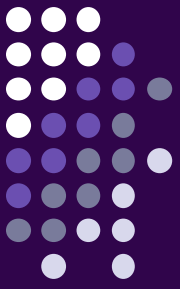
- Literature commentary has some **RESTRICTIONS**.
- You CAN NOT use *I, me, my, we, us, would, should, could, may, or might*
 - Example from *Of Mice and Men*
"I hope I have a friend like George some day" or
"They should have just gone on their way to another ranch."

This Shows That...



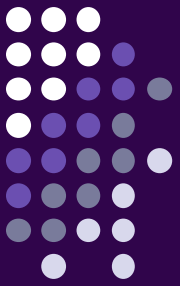
- “Training wheels”
- If you get stuck, start your commentary sentence with “This shows that _____.”

Example with TST



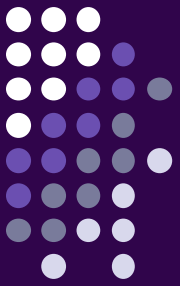
In *Of Mice and Men*, George Milton looks out for Lennie's welfare. For example, he tells Lennie not to say anything to Curley in the ranch house. **This shows that he understands how easily Lennie gets into trouble without realizing it.** **This shows that he wants to keep Lennie out of harm's way by shielding him from contact with strangers.**

This Shows That



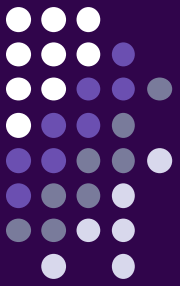
- Eliminate in your final draft
- Write it or think it as you shape your essay and write your first draft.

Example W/O TST



In *Of Mice and Men*, George Milton looks out for Lennie's welfare. For example, he tells Lennie not to say anything to Curley in the ranch house. **He understands how easily Lennie gets into trouble without realizing it.** George wants to keep Lennie out of harm's way by shielding him from contact with strangers.

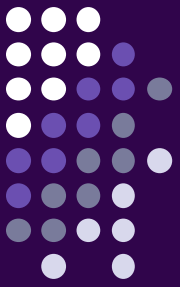
Only Concrete Details



- The following slide is an example of a literature analysis paragraph on *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.
- The **concrete details are examples** from the story.
- There is commentary in the first and last sentences but not in the middle. The commentary is underlined.

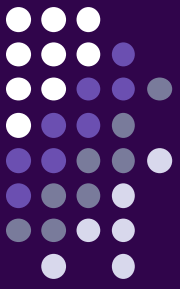
In *Animal Farm*, Clover represents a caring and motherly figure to the other animals. **For example, she talks to Mollie, the horse, when others will not.** **In addition, Clover warns Boxer to slow down and nurses him when he collapses.** **Furthermore, she sees the changes in the Seven Commandments and in the pigs at the end.** She works hard to help the other animals regardless of what the negative consequences may be.

What a Difference Commentary Makes



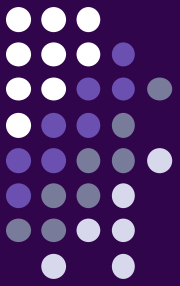
- The following paragraph is a rewritten version of the one on the previous slide.
- It has commentary sentences inserted after each sentence of concrete detail.
- The commentary is underlined.

In *Animal Farm*, Clover represents a caring and motherly figure to the other animals. **For example, she talks to Mollie, the horse, when others will not.** She cares about keeping the animals together. She isn't mean to Mollie but wants her to understand how her decision to leave may affect the farm. **In addition, Clover warns Boxer to slow down and nurses him when he collapses.** In her concern for him, she models the kind of behavior that the animals wanted from Mr. Jones but did not get. She sees the injustice of the system and understands the punishment of hard work. **Furthermore, she sees the changes in the Seven Commandments and in the pigs at the end.** The knowledge that something is wrong leads her to speak out. Her commitment to Animal Farm is most important in her mind, and she wants to put her beliefs into action. She works hard to help the other animals regardless of what the negative consequences may be.



Training Essays

- Eight-sentence requirement for paragraphs
 - Sentence #1 TS
 - Sentence #2 CD
 - Sentence #3 CM
 - Sentence #4 CM
 - Sentence #5 CD
 - Sentence #6 CM
 - Sentence #7 CM
 - Sentence #8 CS



Weaving

- When you are ready to leave the format-- comfortable with commentary--you may “wean” yourself from the sentence requirement.
- You may “weave” concrete detail and commentary as long as you adhere to the word count requirements and ratio of 1CD: 2CM
- Some leave early, some choose not to leave at all