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Ms. Matthews

English 9

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Writing a Five-Paragraph Essay in Correct MLA Format

The first sentence of your introduction should be your “Broad Statement” and should include the author’s name, the title of the work, the type of work and a general summary of the plot. The second sentence of your essay is your thesis, which is only one sentence and is the point of your essay. The third sentence of your essay is a statement about what your first body paragraph will show/explain. Use a transition word to write the fourth sentence of your essay which is a statement about what your second body paragraph will show/explain. It is important to transition into the fifth sentence, as well, which is a statement about what your third body paragraph will show/explain. You don’t need a conclusion sentence unless you want to use one.

Your first body paragraph should start with a topic sentence that should be similar to your first subtopic listed in your introduction (the third sentence in your introduction). In this paragraph you want to analyze and support your topic sentence by using textual evidence, otherwise known as quotes, and specific examples of events that happened in the work that you are writing about. Ms. Matthews suggests that, “you should use at least two examples to support the topic sentence of this paragraph” (Matthews 1). Your following two body paragraphs should follow the same formula, except that the second body paragraph will support/explain your second subtopic and your third body paragraph will support/explain your third subtopic. “Please be sure to end your essay with a

concluding paragraph and always avoid using first and second person POV (I, you, me, my, ours, yours, we . . .),” reminds Ms. Caprio (Caprio 1). Additionally, remember to only use present tense when writing about literature. Moreover, you must always correctly cite your quotes. Finally, edit your work thoroughly before handing it in for a grade.