

**Literary Analysis Essay:
Breakdown of Paragraphs**

I. Introduction Paragraph (3 sentences)

2. Introduction Sentence	1-2 sentences	Introduce the titles/authors of stories along with a brief summary of the stories
3. Thesis Statement	1 sentence	State your thesis; answer the prompt (what is the main point(s) you're trying to prove?)

Sample Introduction Paragraph

George and the Jewels, by Jane Smiley, is narrated by a girl who has been brought up around horses and she is taught to tame and ride them. *Black Beauty: The Autobiography of a Horse*, by Anna Sewell, is narrated by a horse, who describes his experience with his master, from “breaking” to becoming accustomed to his life. The authors of both books use the first person point of view to develop the characters, by giving the narrators opinions to define their personalities and to show how these opinions are affected by the environment that surrounds them.

II. Body Paragraphs (11-14 sentences; one body paragraph per story)

1. Topic Sentence	1 sentence	State the topic of the paragraph. Be sure to use a <i>transition</i> ; include the title of the story; include the overall topic of the essay
2. Supporting Evidence (X3)	3-4 sentences (X3)	State each piece of supporting evidence; use direct quotes from the stories (<u>reference page #s</u>); explain how evidence proves topic sentence/thesis statement; use transitions between each supporting detail.
3. Closing Sentence	1 sentence	Sum up the point presented in the paragraph (refer back to thesis)

Sample Body Paragraph

Smiley develops the girl, Abby, by showing her passionate personality through first person narration that differs from her father's. “But when I woke up (and feeling much better, thank you), there she was, curled up next to me like a dog...” shows Abby's loving nature. This is conveyed through first person because it gives the reader a glimpse on her thoughts and reactions to the occurrences given in the passage. “I started riding when I was three. I started training on horses for my dad when I was eight...Daddy tells me that horses only know two

things, the carrot and the stick, and to not fill my head with silly ideas about them.” Because the passage is narrated through first person, the reader can also see how the narrator is affected by her environment and growth. The passage gives us background information about Abby through her memories of always growing up with horses and having been around them since a young age. In this way, the author also develops her character, Abby, by then showing that she had grown to think that horses had emotions and how her father thinks that they are more simple than animals.

Name four errors in the above body paragraph:

III. Conclusion Paragraph (1-2 sentences)

1. Restate Thesis	1 sentence	Express the same idea as your thesis, but use different words. Start the sentence with a transition.
-------------------	------------	--

Sample Conclusion Paragraph

In both *George and the Jewels* and *Black Beauty: The Autobiography of a Horse*, the authors create the main characters by using first person point of view in order to show the characters’ personalities.

These are the steps that should be followed when writing an essay:

- **Read/analyze prompt**
- **Circle action verbs and underline words that tell you what to do**
- **Brainstorm and choose topic/evidence**
- **Create an outline**
- **Write rough draft**
- **Edit/revise/proofread rough draft**
- **Hand in final essay**