Writing an **Analytical** TEXXXI-style Paragraph

Follow the guidelines below to create an insightful piece of analytical writing.

1. **The Topic Sentence:** this is one of the **most important** parts of the paragraph because it is the first thing the reader will encounter and it creates **a guideline for the rest of the paragraph**.
   1. If the paragraph is a stand-alone paragraph, then it must state specifically what the paragraph is going to be about, but it must be **straight to the point**.
   2. If the paragraph is part of an essay, the topic sentence should follow the guideline about, but should be directly connected to the argument in the thesis.

**It is vitally important that you are intentional when you are writing the TOPIC SENTENCE…what is your paragraph about???**

**SIMPLE – SPECIFIC - PROVEN**

1. **The Introduction of Evidence:** although we usually think that quotes or examples we select to support our idea speak for themselves, they usually don’t. **We know what we are thinking, but the reader doesn’t**.
   1. Provide the reader with **context, a frame of reference**, for the evidence you are going to provide. This should indicate **who is** **involved** in the quote/example, **why this happened**, **what is going on in general**, and **when or where this is taking place.**
   2. It isn’t necessary to include who, what, where, when AND why. Pick and choose what you believe is necessary to create a smooth flow for your readers.

**This is, in TEXXI terms, the ELABORATION. Here, you are elaborating on your ideas ~ without beginning to include evidence. This sentence provides context for the topic sentence.**

**NEVER USE:**

* **THIS IS WHY…**
* **I WILL SHOW/EXPLAIN**

1. **The support/Examples:** when choosing the proper piece of the text to support your topic sentence (and this is **ALL about supporting the topic sentence**), it is important to **choose wisely**.
   1. Choose quotes that **expand upon your main point** (the topic sentence) and allow for elaboration or analysis. In other words, **pick quotes about which you have something to say!**
   2. Avoid quotes that simply repeat what has already been said, that are too complex to support one idea, that have parts removed in order to make your point, or that simply don’t have much or anything to do with the topic sentence.

**GET COMFORTABLE USING PARTIAL QUOTES – NO NEED TO INCLUDE FULL SENTENCES**

**This part is very important to your paragraph because it is here that you support your argument (topic sentence) with evidence from the text. Select textual evidence wisely and use quotations marks to set them apart. Textual evidence should not be more than one line!!**

1. **Analysis:** this part of the paragraph is where **your ideas come into play,** therefore, **this part is very, very important.** This is where **you tell the reader why you think the example quote you have chosen supports your point - and you proved it!**
   1. While analyzing your quote, **clearly explain the connections** that you see. Remember that the reader may not see this connection – your job is to make it as clear as possible!
   2. When you analyze a quote, **be sure NOT to simply re-state what the quote says.**
   3. Avoid phrases like:
      1. This quote shows
      2. This proves that

Unless you tell us, we don’t know WHAT it shows or HOW it proves.

**This part isn’t in the TEXXXI acronym, but it is *VITALLY* important in analytical writing. You HAVE to tell your reader why the textual evidence you included proves your argument. After EACH piece of textual evidence included, you should have at LEAST two sentences in which you explain (ANALYZE) the importance of the quote to your argument.**

1. **Transitions:** a good, solid analytical paragraph should have **at least 2 examples** that support the topic sentence. While this is a great habit to get into, you simply can’t plop another example down in the paragraph! **It is important to show the connection between the previous examples and the one you are about to provide.**
   1. **Transitions may be a word, a phrase, or a complete sentence**. As long as the relationship between example #1 and example #2 as indicated, you will be in good shape.
   2. It is important that the transitions you use express what you are trying to say. For instance, if you say “however” you are indicating an opposing idea or thought; therefore, you cannot follow it with an idea that is the same as the one before
2. **Concluding Sentence/ILLUMINATION:** when you end your paragraph, you are leaving your reader with your ideas. Be sure to **tie it all together** for me so I not only know exactly what you are talking about, but also so that I have **something to think about.** 
   1. This statement can be more specific than your topic sentence, but **avoid repeating every idea you have just said.**
   2. **It is important that you do not simply restate your topic sentence!!!!!**

**This is the ILLUMINATION in the TEXXXI structure. Here you tell your reader why the information you just gave is important…but do not repeat information already given! This isn’t a place to summarize your points – here you tie it together and tell me why I care.**

**TEXXI PARAGRAPH SHOWN**

Start with the topic sentence. It is your first one.

**TRANSITION** to your second piece of textual evidence. eveevidence.

Explain the textual evidence. Then, in the final sentence, tell me why I care!

***REPEAT STEPS FOR AS MANY PIECES OF TEXTUAL EVIDENCE YOU ARE ASKED TO USE IN THE ESSAY!***

**TRANSITION** to your first piece of textual evidence .eveveceeevidevidence.

The next 2-3 sentences should explain why the textual evidence just provided proves the topic sentence. These sentences should NOT restate what the quote said by should EXPLAIN or ANALYZE the significance of the quote in the point of the paragraph.

Provide your first piece of textual support for your idea or argument. Don’t just throw the quote into your paragraph, introduce it and then add the quote.

Next, elaborate upon your argument or idea in the topic sentence. Give context (title of text and author’s name should go here) in this sentence.