

JANE SCHAFFER TWO CHUNK ESSAY GUIDELINES

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1. What is a Jane Schaffer essay?

It is a writing format for essays. It consists of a minimum of five paragraphs: thesis statement, body paragraphs (three or more) in chunks, and a concluding sentence and a concluding paragraph.

2. What is a thesis statement?

A thesis statement opens an essay. It must contain a subject and an opinion. It includes all the main ideas of the essay, however, it gives only a shortened or abbreviated version of the ideas. It can begin with a question, an anecdote, image, power statement, or quotation. It is usually two to five sentences in length.

3. What is a body paragraph?

A body paragraph is one of three or more paragraphs that addresses the topic or the ideas of the essay. A two chunk paragraph contains a transition word, a topic sentence, a concrete detail, two commentary sentences, another concrete detail, two more commentary sentences, and a concluding sentence. It is no less than eight sentences, however, can be much longer in length.

4. What is a transition word?

A transition word moves a paragraph into a new thought. It is the opening word or phrase that signals to the reader that new thoughts are coming. A transition word appears at the beginning of every body paragraph. Transition words include *To begin with, First, Next, Last, Finally, In addition.* (See concrete detail and commentary examples.)

5. What is a topic sentence?

A topic sentence is the main idea of the paragraph. It contains a sub-thesis statement. Topic sentences or main ideas are found at the beginning of the paragraph.

6. What is a concrete detail sentence?

Concrete detail sentences are found within body paragraphs. These sentences are facts or statements that support the topic sentence (see item 2) and contain facts, quotes, examples, etc. from the text. It cannot be argued; it is evidence that supports your point. They start with *For example, In addition,* (for the second concrete detail).

7. What is commentary?

Commentary is where the writer provides analysis, interpretation, explanation, or insight into the text. They can start with *This shows that, This also show that, You can see by this that, You again notice how, This is because, This is important because, In addition, Furthermore, Therefore, For example.*

8. What is a concluding sentence?

It wraps up the paragraph and rephrases the main idea but in a new way.

9. What is a concluding paragraph?

The concluding paragraph should summarize the main points of your essay, restating the thesis in different words. No new information should be introduced and it should be entirely commentary.