

Methods of Characterization Paragraphs

Directions: For this assignment, you will be reviewing paragraph structure by analyzing the methods of characterization for protagonists and antagonists from your personal choice book. You will take notes on the book report handout and then (choosing one character from your novel) you will type your characterization paragraph in MLA format to hand in, along with your outline/notes, on the due date.

Type	Description
Flat	A character that has only one or two sides, representing only one or two traits—often a stereotype, such as a gossip woman.
Round	A character that is complex and has many sides or traits, with unpredictable behavior and a fully developed personality.
Dynamic	A character that experiences an essential change in personality or attitude.
Static	A character that does not change or develop beyond the way in which she or he is first presented.

Example MLA Format In-Text Citation

“Christmas was not the same without father” (Alcott 31). *Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott, is a coming of age novel about four sisters who are trying to find their way in this world without their father present.

Example MLA Format Works Cited Citation

*See attached example

*More information can be found at:

www.purdueowl.com/mlaformat

Example How to Do Part 2

The following example from the play *Romeo and Juliet* shows how you would format and label your paragraphs for this assignment.

Statement-



In William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, the method of characterization that best described Juliet Capulet was round.

transition phrase

Example-

When Juliet initially discovered that Romeo killed Tybalt, ^{transition sentence} she was understandably enraged. In her anguish, she angrily proclaimed he was “just opposite of what thou justly seem’st,/ A damned saint, an honorable villain” (3.2. 528).

Explanation-



^{transition word}

Clearly, Juliet experienced an extensive range of emotions and was not blindly in love with Romeo. She was a complex young woman who, unlike her impulsive lover, acknowledged potential consequences before she made a critical decision. While she was understandingly angry with him, one could see she still possessed love for him because of the contradictory names she called him. In doing so, the audience witnessed a character that had a fully developed personality.



Rubric for Characterization Paragraphs

An “A” paragraph will do all or most of the following:

- Will have several sentences, including one statement (topic sentence), two or more sentences of examples (supporting sentences) that strongly supports the statement, and two or more sentences of explanation (concluding sentences) that thoroughly explains the evidence
- Correctly identifies the characterization type within the statement
- The statement sentence does not contain any explanation
- Sentences are smoothly connected (with transitions) and the paragraph reads well
- Parenthetically cites the author and page number of the evidence
- Labels the statement, example, and explanation, as well as the types of transitions used
- Relatively free from spelling, grammatical, and mechanical errors
- Takes creative risks and hooks the attention of the audience

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