Hi, Bridge students: You will be writing a literary analysis essay for your Bridge project. To help you do this, you will look at an example of a literary analysis essay written by a high school student about William Golding’s novel *Lord of the Flies*. You will analyze each paragraph for elements that must be included in your essay. This is not a perfect essay, but it gives you an idea of what is required.

MSDE Standards:

W.2a Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

W.2b Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic.

W.2c Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.

W.2e Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.

W.2f Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).
## Activity 1: Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
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<tr>
<td>● Hook</td>
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<td>● Thesis</td>
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<td>● Topic sentence</td>
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<td>● Evidence Quote #1</td>
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<td>● Evidence Quote #2</td>
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<td>● Concluding sentence (links topic to next paragraph)</td>
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<th>Body Paragraph 2</th>
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<td>● Topic sentence</td>
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<td>● Evidence Quote #1</td>
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<td>● Topic sentence</td>
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<th>Conclusion</th>
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<tr>
<td>● Rephrased thesis statement</td>
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As humans we all fear something, and we deal with those fears in ways that match our personalities. In *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding shows the fears of Jack, Ralph, and Piggy and chooses specific ways for each to deal with his fears. Therefore, each of the three boys reacts to fear in his own unique way.

**Background information** should be provided so that your readers know what you are writing about.

1. Which part of the introduction above provides the background information?  
Circle one>> A, B, or C.

2. How could the essayist have given more background information so that the reader has an understanding of why the boys experience fear?  
A. The essayist could have provided more information about the plane crash and how the boys were stranded on a deserted island.  
B. The essayist could have provided more information about the hidden dangers of the island.  
C. The essayist could have explained how the boys started to turn on each other.  
D. All of the above.

The **thesis statement** gives the main focus of your essay and answers the writing prompt.

3. Which part of the introduction above is the thesis statement?  
Circle one>> A, B, or C.

An **essay hook** is 1-2 opening sentences of your paper. These sentences serve to capture the readers' attention and help them decide if they want to continue reading your text.

4. Which part of the introduction above is the hook?  
Circle one>> A, B, or C.

A **writing prompt**, or an essay prompt, is a learning assignment that directs students to write about a particular topic in a particular way.

5. The writer of this essay most likely responded to this prompt:

A. Identify the most significant symbol in the novel and justify your choice.  
(Symbols to choose from: the conch, Piggy’s glasses, the fire, the parachute man, the pig’s head/Lord of the Flies)  
B. How does the novel foreshadow the murders of Simon and Piggy? Focus on two events or images from the novel’s earlier chapters and describe how they anticipate the novel’s tragic outcome.  
C. How does fear affect the characters in *Lord of the Flies*? Focus on three characters and how they react to events in the novel.  
D. Develop an explanation of why some critics feel that Golding’s main theme is
that there is no hope for mankind, or that evil is an inborn trait of mankind. Be sure to use examples from the book.

A literary analysis essay should be written in a third person point of view allowing you to maintain a formal style and an objective tone. To stay in the 3rd person, you should use the pronouns he, she, they, it, them, their. 1st person (we, I, our) and 2nd person (you, your) should not be used.

6. The first sentence of the paragraph the essayist writes, “As humans we all fear something, and we deal with those fears in ways that match our personalities.” How can the essayist write the first sentence of the paragraph more formal, objective style?

A. Turn it into a question: “Don’t we as humans deal with fear differently?”
B. Take out the reference to humans: “We all fear something, and we deal with those fears in ways that match our own.”
C. Leave out the first person “we”: “Humans deal with fear in different ways.”
D. Leave out first person pronouns and add third person pronouns: “All humans are afraid of something, and they have different ways of dealing with their individual fears.
E. C & D

Activity 2: Body Paragraph 1

(A) The first boy, Jack, believes that a beast truly does exist. (B) He is afraid and admits it; however, he deals with his fear with aggressive violence. (C) He chooses to hunt for the beast, arm himself with a spear, and practice killing it: “We’re strong—we hunt! If there’s a beast, we’ll hunt it down! We’ll close in and beat and beat and beat—!” He also uses the fear of the beast to control and manipulate the other children. Because they fear the beast, they are more likely to listen to Jack and follow his orders. Furthermore, Jack fears Ralph’s power over the group and Piggy’s rational thought. This is because he knows that both directly conflict with his thirst for absolute power. (D) He responds to these fears in his familiar, violent way. (E) He physically and verbally abuses Piggy, and he argues with Ralph and questions his authority to such an extent that he ends up leaving the group. Jack eventually consolidates his power by forcing the last members of Ralph’s group into his tribe and ordering a hunt for Ralph.

1. What is the main idea of this paragraph?
A. Ralph and Piggy get on Jack’s nerves.
B. Jack deals with fear with violence and manipulation.
C. Jack is not rational.
D. Jack is afraid of the beast.

2. What sentence in the paragraph supports your answer to question 1?
Circle one>> A, B, C, D, or E?

After you provide **textual evidence**, you should always **explain** how this evidence supports the main idea of the paragraph in your own words.

3. Which sentence in the paragraph is an example of an explanation of the evidence?

Circle one>> A, B, C, D, or E?

As you write, you should use **transition words** to link one idea to another. Examples: However, furthermore, therefore, because, likewise, as a result, etc.

4. What are **three** transitional words or phrases the essay writer uses to maintain a smooth transition from one idea to the next in body paragraph 1?

A. In the same way
B. Because
C. Furthermore
D. However

5. What is missing from this paragraph?

A. Another piece of strong textual evidence in the form of a quote
B. Transition words and phrases
C. A topic sentence
D. 3rd person point of view (he, she, they, it, their, etc)

Activity 3: Body Paragraph 2

(A) Next, the boys’ leader, Ralph, has his own fears. (B) However, he deals with them differently than Jack does. At first he does not fear the beast; rather, he fears that the boys will never be rescued due to the group’s inability to keep a rescue fire lit. (C) Ralph’s fear remains valid through most of the book, yet his efforts to convey the urgency of the fire to the group are thwarted by Jack. (D) At one point, Ralph exclaims, “I’m chief... There’s no signal showing. There may be a ship out there. Are you all off your rockers?” (E) This quote shows how he continuously tries to stress the fire and his fear of not being rescued. (F) Ralph also begins to fear the other boys. After Simon dies, he realizes just what the boys are capable of doing, especially under Jack’s influence. He tries to conquer this fear by looking to Piggy for rationalization and for guidance as to how best lead on the island.

1. What is the main idea of this paragraph?

A. Ralph has his own fears.
B. Ralph is afraid of the fire burning out.
C. Ralph relies on Piggy
D. Ralph fears the other boys.

2. Which sentence in the paragraph is an example of textual evidence?
   Circle one>> A, B, C, D, E, or F?
   After you provide textual evidence, you should always explain how this evidence supports the main idea of the paragraph in your own words.

3. Which sentence in the paragraph is an example of an explanation of the evidence?
   Circle one>> A, B, C, D, E, or F?

4. What are three transitional words or phrases the essay writer uses to maintain a smooth transition from one idea to the next in body paragraph 2?
   A. Next
   B. However
   C. Rather
   D. Therefore

5. What is missing from this paragraph?
   A. Another piece of strong textual evidence in the form of a quote
   B. Transition words and phrases
   C. A topic sentence
   D. 3rd person point of view (he, she, they, it, their, etc)

Activity 4: Body Paragraph 3

(A) The last boy, Piggy, fears Jack—and with good reason. Jack takes his anger out on Piggy, who stands in stark contrast to Jack’s character: “I’m scared of him…but if you stand out of the way he’d hurt the next thing. And that’s me.” Piggy handles this fear by avoiding Jack and remaining loyal to Ralph. Another fear that Piggy experiences is a fear of being ignored or shunned by others. (B) Above all else, Piggy wants acknowledgement of his opinions and thoughts, as proven by his statement: “I got the conch…You let me speak!” (C) This quote shows Piggy’s constant efforts to be recognized by the others and to make them pay attention to him. Throughout most of the novel, Piggy seeks refuge from his fears in both Ralph and the conch.

1. What is the main idea of this paragraph?
   A. Jack takes his anger out on Piggy
   B. Piggy fears Jack and also being ignored by others
   C. Piggy relies on Ralph for support
   D. Piggy fears the other boys
2. Which sentence in the paragraph is an example of textual evidence?

Circle one>> A, B, or C?

After you provide **textual evidence**, you should always **explain** how this evidence supports the main idea of the paragraph in your own words.

3. Which sentence in the paragraph is an example of an explanation of the evidence?

Circle one>> A, B, or C?

4. What are three transitional words or phrases the essay writer uses to maintain a smooth transition from one idea to the next in body paragraph 3?

A. Undoubtedly
B. Another
C. Above all else
D. Throughout

5. What is missing from this paragraph?

A. Another piece of strong textual evidence in the form of a quote
B. Transition words and phrases
C. Nothing
D. 3rd person point of view (he, she, they, it, their, etc)

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**Activity 5: Conclusion**

In conclusion, William Golding’s novel *Lord of the Flies* exposes the reader to three characters with different personalities and fears: Jack, Ralph, and Piggy. Each of the boys try to conquer his fear in a different way. Fear is a natural emotion encountered by everyone, but each person deals with it in a way that best fits his/her individual personality.

The conclusion is the last paragraph of your essay. This paragraph should begin by echoing your major thesis without repeating the words exactly. The conclusion should do one or more of the following:

1) Reflect on how your essay topic relates to the book as a whole
2) Evaluate how successful the author is in achieving his or her goal or message
3) Give a personal statement about the topic
4) Make predictions
5) Connect back to your creative opening
6) Give your opinion of the novel’s value or significance

In your opinion, does the concluding paragraph of this essay accomplish any of the six
purposes listed above? Explain.