



Introduction & Conclusion Paragraphs

Bringing shapes into the writing process
because why not



Introduction Paragraph

Provide a general statement about your overall topic

Provide more specific info about your overall topic and your connection to it

Introduce the book title and author's full name

Briefly mention how the book shows the main idea

Thesis

Think of your intro as an upside-down triangle...



Introduction Paragraph

Important Idea: Loyalty and trust

Thesis: Through the relationships in the play and the ways they impact Hamlet's development, Shakespeare illustrates in *Hamlet* that shifts in loyalties and trust not only damage the bonds between people but also have detrimental effects on individuals' wellbeing.

My Connection: My relationship with my mom after she remarried



Introduction Paragraph

Narrative Intro Example:

Loyalty and trust are two components that must be present in order to maintain a healthy relationship. I know this from experience; when I was thirteen, my mom remarried, and it quickly became clear whose side she was on. In addition to having to adjust to a new house, a new stepdad, and new stepsiblings, my sisters and I had to acclimate to being reprimanded by someone whom we did not yet consider “family” and having our mom always support his decisions. I remember feeling as if I had lost my mom. As an adult, I now understand that it is crucial to be loyal to the people I care about. By taking my stepdad’s side, my mom demonstrated to him that they were a united force and strengthened their partnership, but in doing so, she also indicated to my sisters and me that she was no longer united with us. This significantly impacted the relationship I have with my mom to this day. I now understand that I need to be careful how I demonstrate loyalty toward the people in my life because I have experienced picking through the wreckage of a relationship that has lost its foundation of trust. **The play *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare** resonates with me because it heavily features this idea of the ways loyalty and trust impact relationships. **The title character watches allegiances change before his eyes, and he swiftly learns that he cannot trust the people he once considered his confidants and friends.** Through these relationships and the ways they impact Hamlet’s development, Shakespeare illustrates in *Hamlet* that shifts in loyalties and trust not only damage the bonds between people but also have detrimental effects on individuals’ wellbeing.

General Statement

More Specific Info

Title & Author

Book & Main Idea

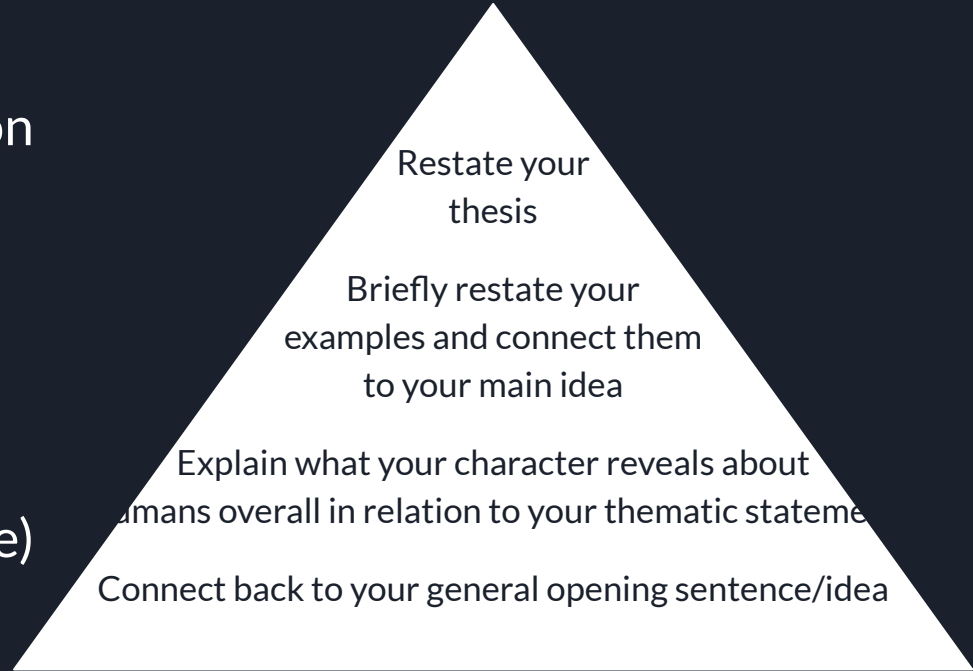
Thesis



Conclusion Paragraph

Think of your conclusion
as a right-side-up
triangle...

(Basically, the exact
opposite of the
introduction's structure)





Conclusion Paragraph

Thesis: Through these relationships and the ways they impact Hamlet's development, Shakespeare illustrates in *Hamlet* that shifts in loyalties and trust not only damage the bonds between people but also have detrimental effects on individuals' wellbeing.

Opening Sentence/Idea: Loyalty and trust are two components that must be present in order to maintain a healthy relationship./My experiences with losing loyalty and trust.



Conclusion Paragraph

Narrative Conclusion Example:

William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* reveals that a change in loyalties and trust can negatively impact a relationship and the individuals involved through the development of the character Hamlet. In the case of his childhood friends, his beloved, and his mother, Hamlet learns that a relationship is worthless if he cannot trust the others in it to be loyal to him. This negatively affects Hamlet and pushes him to actively undermine those relationships in a way he later regrets and which arguably leads to the demise of all of those involved. Shakespeare uses Hamlet to illustrate to the audience how important trust and loyalty are to every relationship we enter into and how drastically a lack of trust can alter a formerly strong bond. As Shakespeare demonstrates, it is vital to consider how aligning ourselves with one individual might impact our relationship with another if we wish to maintain both alliances. Like *Hamlet*, I too have experienced the negative effects of seeing someone I care about place her loyalty with someone else, and as a result, I responded in a way that further strained our relationship. Although my behavior thankfully did not result in anyone's death, I now understand the motives behind my mom's actions and how my own rescission of trust impacted the relationship as much as her change in loyalty. Ultimately, my experience and Hamlet's experiences taught us the same concept: every healthy relationship must be built on a foundation of trust.

Restate Thesis

Restate/Connect Examples

Humanity + Thematic Statement

Opener