

Sample Essay Paragraph

Key:

Topic Sentence

Introducing Evidence

Evidence

Explanation of Evidence

More Evidence (if needed)

Commentary

Explain how Evidence Proves the Thesis

Two sample paragraphs: Pay attention to format.

Finally,
Lowry clearly demonstrates the need for families to love each other in the scene in which Jonas asks his parents if they love him. In this scene, Jonas returns home after receiving a memory of grandparents and the love a family feels. He then asks his dad if he loves him. "There was an awkward silence.... Then Father gave a little chuckle. 'Jonas, you of all people, Precision of language, please!'" (127). *Jonas's father's abrupt and condescending response reveals that this adult doesn't even know what love is. The community has successfully trained people to think that love isn't a precise term or a real emotion.* When Jonas's mother explains that love is "so meaningless that it's become almost obsolete," *Jonas is shocked and terribly hurt because "he had never before felt anything as meaningful" as the memory of familial love (127). Through Jonas's reaction Lowry demonstrates pain and emptiness of a family without love. She stresses the importance of love because Jonas decides to take action after this encounter with his parents.*

Most importantly, Lowry clearly shows that censorship limits freedom when Jonas takes Gabriel and escapes with him. In this section, Jonas finds out that Gabriel is going to be released in the morning. He reacts to this knowledge by escaping with Gabriel to save his life. On his escaping journey, Jonas and Gabriel become weak from hunger. They suffer pain, coldness, and fatigue. "He wept because he was afraid now that he could not save Gabriel. He no longer cared about himself" (173). *Since Jonas is able to finally understand that the censoring of choice-making in his society causes people to not understand right from wrong, he realizes that he must make a crucial choice to save a life. Through this uncensored choice, Jonas performs the greatest act a human being can perform—sacrificing oneself for the benefit of another. Jonas stops thinking about his own life, and cares most about Gabriel's. Father's lack of care/love for Gabe shows how censorship has limited his ability to make clear judgments regarding life. He has been protected from decision making, and therefore, cannot understand the value of Gabe's life. Furthermore, Jonas is able to save Gabriel's life because of the uncensored pain he had previously suffered from the memories he received from the Giver. Undergoing suffering makes people stronger for future trials that they may experience. Therefore, when leaders censor all experiences of pain and suffering, people won't be strengthened through such experiences. It will be more difficult for them to endure their trials compared to someone who has already endured suffering. The people in the community do not know suffering, because if someone is not healthy or suffering, they are released/killed. Through Jonas's act of saving Gabe, Lowry emphasizes that crucial decisions about life and death come when people are not overly censored.*