Fitzgerald

Steps for Planning a Literary Analysis Paper

Write a paragraph responding to the following prompt:

Discuss the use of suspense in “The Monkey’s Paw.”

Step 1 - Gather evidence from the story. – Completed Monday and Tuesday

* See handout listing the evidence gathered by the class

Step 2 – Write the topic sentence.

* + In “The Monkey’s Paw,” W.W. Jacobs creates suspense by introducing a perceived danger, describing the weaknesses of the main character, and the having the main character choose to put himself and his family in danger.

Step 3 - Choose the best evidence to use.

Step 4 - Decide on the order in which to present three supporting areas of evidence.

Step 5 – Decide on the order in which to present the evidence for the first area of development.

Step 6 - Write the beginning of the paragraph: the topic sentence, the introduction of the first area of evidence, and the development of the first area of evidence. Work for a smooth flow in your ideas and wording.

Step 7 – Decide on the order in which to present the evidence for the second area of development.

Step 8 – Continue writing the paragraph, introducing the second area of evidence and then developing the second area of evidence. Work for a smooth flow in your ideas and wording.

Step 9 – Decide on the order in which to present the evidence for the last area of development.

Step 10 - Continue writing the paragraph, introducing the last area of evidence and then developing the last area of evidence. Work for a smooth flow in your ideas and wording.

Step 11 – Develop possible concluding thoughts on the topic of suspense that will leave the reader thinking. Choose your best.

Step 12 – Finish writing the paragraph, flowing from the explanation of the last area of development into the concluding thought.

Step 13 – Write a creative title that introduces the paragraph’s ideas.

Step 14 – Read the paragraph out loud to someone from title to conclusion, jotting down notes on wording to change, ideas to remove, and ideas to add.

Step 15 – Make the changes jotted down during the oral reading of the draft.

Step 16 – Edit your paragraph.

Step 17 – Write the final copy, correcting errors found during the edit and carefully following formatting requirements.