8 Sentence Paragraph Format

The following eight-sentence format is very useful in achieving all the basic necessities of information presentation for the purposes of writing about literature or any other topic in high school. This structure will be the basis for all future writing assignments, so study, practice, and learn it well.

Bentence #1- Topic Bentence: (TB)

This introduces the topic or theme, contains an opinion, acts as a sub-thesis in a longer paper, and should include the title of the literature being discussed.

Example: "Against the Great Divide" focuses on the division between the various races in a suburban St. Louis High School.

Bentence #Z= Concrete Detail (or quote): (CD)

Contains a piece of quoted text, and often begins with "For example..." or another demonstrative phrase.

<u>Example</u>: Author Brian Jarvis states, "at my high school, the black students sit on one side of the commons while the Hispanic students sit in another area and the white students on another side" (14).

Bentence #3- Commentary (CM)

Offers your view of the information you are presenting, and may include the phrase "This shows..." or something similar.

<u>Example:</u> This exclusivity within the various racial groups reveals a school with great tension and lack of cohesiveness...a concern in any modern, comprehensive high school.

Sentence #4-Commentary: (CM)

Further discusses your critical view of the information you are presenting.

<u>Example</u>: Because the various racial groups have little, if any, interaction with one another, each remains suspicious of the other groups and this division spills into the classrooms.

Bentence #5-Concrete Detail (or quote) (CD)

Presents another piece of concrete information for you to discuss and comment on, and may start with the phrase "In addition..." or something similar.

<u>Example</u>: "One of the school groups, SOAR, attempted to force the various groups to interact by moving a soda machine from one side of the commons to another" (14).

Sentence #6-Commentary: (CM)

Offers your view of the information presented in y our second concrete detail.

Example: This is just like sentence #3 but about your 2nd concrete detail.

Bentence #7-Commentary: (CM)

Further discusses your critical view of the information presented by CD #2.

Example: This is just like sentence #4 but about your 2nd concrete detail.

Sentence #8-Concluding Sentence: (CS)

Finish your paragraph by reaching a conclusion and reiterating your opinion.

<u>Example</u>: In closing, Brian Jarvis's admirable observations don't address the reach problem at his high school as teachers should teacher all students how to interact with each other, regardless of race or economic status.

Things to Note:

Pay careful attention to how to FORMAT the Concrete Detail (CD) paying attention to the **punctuation** as it's written above for you: "text" (page #) end mark.

There are ONLY 8 sentences total in an eight-sentence paragraph...don't work so hard.