**Literary Essay Paragraph Breakdown**

**Paragraph 1 -** 1) Background information about the book, author, and/or the story. This should be 2-5 sentences. 2) Thesis Statement. This is your debatable claim, or the theme you want to tackle. This should be 1-2 sentences. 3) Plan. Introduce what the rest of the paper is about?

**Paragraph 2 -** 1) Support/Evidence from the text that supports your theme. This should be 1-2 sentences. 2) Explain how this quote or piece supports your claim. This part should be 2-6 sentences.

**Paragraph 3 -** If you have another quote that supports your evidence, put that in paragraph 3. If you don’t have another quote, move on to paragraph 4 and skip 3. Keep in mind, the more information you have to back up your thesis, the better your thesis will be.

**Paragraph 4 -** So what? Give a connection to this point and an example of how this theme pertains to the real world. This paragraph should take 3-8 sentences.

**Paragraph 5 -** Conclude your paper. Remind the reader of what your paper is about. This should take 3-6 sentences.