Example thesis: Okonkwo’s aggressive response to the missionaries and his ultimate fate demonstrates the destructive impact colonization can have on an individual who is unwilling to adapt.

Topic Sentence (TS): explains the purpose of the paragraph and MUST connect directly to the thesis or ideas in the intro.

*Ex: Although Okonkwo in many ways was the* ***epitome of a cultural hero****, even before the appearance of the colonizers he had his flaws.*

Supporting Evidence: Supports the claim made in your TS. Set up our SE in three steps: purpose, context, quote.

Ex: The Ibo people value experience, but “personal achievement was revered.” Okonkwo’s personal achievements were a result of his bravery and courage. Early in his life, Okonkwo was known for wrestling prowess and strength. He “threw Amilynze the Cat” who was the fiercest competitor in all nine villages (Achebe 28).

Commentary: Explains my evidence and how it connects to my TS and Thesis. Also, it explains why the SE is significant (why does it matter?).

Ex: Because the culture values strength and bravery and Okonkwo is both strong and brave by boldly defeating The Cat, he is revered and appreciated in his culture. Also he aligns with his cultural standards of multiple wives, many Yams and …

Despite all the things that make Okonkwo heroic by his culture, he also has flaws that set him up for his ultimate demise.

SE2 + C2

Concluding Sentence (CS): This concludes the paragraph and transitions to the next paragraph. Okonkwo’s domination by fear and proclivity to stubbornness are contributing factors to his extreme response to the appearance of the colonizers.

1. Body paragraph 1:
2. Topic sentence (TS)
3. Supporting evidence 1: purpose / context / quote
4. Commentary for SE1: interpretation / connection / implications (significance)
5. Supporting evidence 2: purpose / context / quote evidence
6. Commentary for SE2:
7. Concluding sentence + transition to next body paragraph.