



Notes #3

Paper
Transitions

Hooks

Topic Sentences

5 Paragraph Paper

I. Introduction

II. 1st Body Paragraph

III. 2nd Body Paragraph

IV. 3rd Body Paragraph

V. Conclusion

1Stephen King, creator of such stories as *Carrie* and *Pet Cemetery*, stated that the Edgar Allan Poe stories he read as a child gave him the inspiration and instruction he needed to become the writer that he is.

2Poe, as does Stephen King, fills the reader's imagination with the images that he wishes the reader to see, hear, and feel. **3**His use of vivid, concrete visual imagery to present both static and dynamic settings and to describe people is part of his technique. **4**Poe's short story "The Tell-Tale Heart" is a story about a young man who kills an old man who cares for him, dismembers the corpse, then goes mad when he thinks he hears the old man's heart beating beneath the floor boards under his feet as he sits and discusses the old man's absence with the police. **5**In "The Tell-Tale Heart," a careful reader can observe Poe's skillful manipulation of the senses.

Introductory Paragraph

- 1st sentence - includes a paraphrase of something said by a famous person in order to get the reader's attention. (HOOK)
- 2nd sentence - leads up to the thesis statement
- 3rd sentence - presents topic of the paper to the reader and provides a mini- outline. The topic is Poe's use of visual imagery. (THESIS) The mini-outline tells the reader that this paper will present Poe's use of imagery in three places in his writing: (1) description of static setting; (2) description of dynamic setting; and (3) description of a person.
- 5th sentence - uses the words "manipulation" and "senses" as TRANSITION

- **1**The sense of sight, the primary sense, is particularly susceptible to manipulation. **2**In "The Tell-Tale Heart," Poe uses the following image to describe a static scene: "His room was as black as pitch with the thick darkness . . ." Poe used the words "black," "pitch," and "thick darkness" not only to show the reader the condition of the old man's room, but also to make the reader feel the darkness. **3**"Thick" is a word that is not usually associated with color (darkness), yet in using it, Poe stimulates the reader's sense of feeling as well as his sense of sight.

First Body Paragraph

- 1st sentence - the words "sense" and "manipulation" are used to mirror into the end of the introductory paragraph
- 2nd sentence - provides the topic for this paragraph--imagery in a static scene.
- 3rd sentence - quotation from "The Tell-Tale Heart" is presented and briefly discussed.
- Last sentence - uses the expressions "sense of feeling" and "sense of sight" as transitions for leading into the third paragraph

- **1**Further on in the story, Poe uses a couple of words that cross not only the sense of sight but also the sense of feeling to describe a dynamic scene. **2**The youth in the story has been standing in the open doorway of the old man's room for a long time, waiting for just the right moment to reveal himself to the old man in order to frighten him. **3**Poe writes: "So I opened it [the lantern opening]-- you cannot imagine how stealthily, stealthily-- until, at length, a single dim ray, like the thread of the spider, shot from out the crevice and fell full upon the vulture eye." **4**By using the metaphor of the thread of the spider (which we all know is a creepy creature) and the word "shot," Poe almost makes the reader gasp, as surely did the old man whose one blind eye the young man describes as "the vulture eye."

Second Body Paragraph

- 1st sentence - uses the words "sense of sight" and "sense of feeling" to hook back into the previous paragraph.
-also includes the topic for this paragraph--imagery in a dynamic scene
- 3rd sentence - quotation is taken from the story, and it is briefly discussed.
- 4th sentence - uses the words "one blind eye" which was in the quotation. This expression provides the transition for the last paragraph in the body of the paper.

1The reader does not know much about what the old man in this story looks like except that he has one blind eye. **2**In the second paragraph of "The Tell-Tale Heart," Poe establishes the young man's obsession with that blind eye when he writes: "He had the eye of the vulture--a pale blue eye, with a film over it." **3**This "vulture eye" is evoked over and over again in the story until the reader becomes as obsessed with it as does the young man. **4**His use of the vivid, concrete word "vulture" establishes a specific image in the mind of the reader that is inescapable.

Third Body Paragraph

- 1st sentence - "one blind eye" is used as a reverse transition with the previous paragraph.
- also lets the reader know that this paragraph will deal with descriptions of people: "... what the old man looks like"
- 2nd and 3rd sentences - again Poe is quoted and discussed.
- 4th sentence - uses the word "image" which transitions into the last paragraph

1"Thick darkness," "thread of the spider," and "vulture eye" are three images that Poe used in "The Tell-Tale Heart" to stimulate a reader's senses. **2**Poe wanted the reader to see and feel real life. **3**He used concrete imagery rather than vague abstract words to describe settings and people. **4**If Edgar Allan Poe was one of Stephen King's teachers, then readers of King owe a debt of gratitude to that nineteenth-century creator of horror stories.

Conclusion

- 1st sentence - uses the principal words from the quotations from each paragraph of the body of the paper. This summarizes those three paragraphs.
- 2nd and 3rd sentences - provide observations which can also be considered a summary, not only of the content of the paper, but also offers personal opinion which was logically drawn as the result of this study.
- 4th sentence - returns to the Edgar Allan Poe-Stephen King relationship that began this paper. This sentence also provides a "wrap-up" and gives the paper a sense of finality.