

TEXTUAL CITATIONS: THE BONES OF YOUR PET

1. Think of the body paragraph as your PET. (P= Point, E=Explanation, T=Textual Citation). It cannot stand up without its bones. The bones are underneath the skin, so they make the pet appear seamless. Your textual citations should be the same. Don't stand them alone or point them out so much that they are like broken bones sticking out of the skin. Use them as support for the beauty of your PETs. Make your body paragraphs as cute as a puppy.
2. Structure the body paragraphs with your
 - POINT (topic sentence),
 - EXPLANATION (Specifics about your point & Transition to evidence, context, and purpose for cited text),
 - TEXT (Evidence from the text worked into a sentence or two of your own crafting with parenthetical citation),
 - EXPLANATION [Commentary (without "this means" or "this refers to") explaining how evidence supports the thesis/whole that you are using in your paper and Significance of your POINT].

Here are some examples of Body Paragraphs with Textual Citation. They place a P, E, or T after each sentence to show you what is being provided. They were written in response to this prompt:

Use what you have learned by reading Virginia Hamilton's "The People Could Fly" and Maya Angelou's "Caged Bird" to write an essay that analyzes how both texts treat the theme of freedom. Develop your essay by providing textual evidence from both sources. Be sure to follow the conventions of Standard English.

In "The People Could Fly" and "Caged Bird" the physical freedom of the main characters is a symbolic representation of their spiritual well-being. **(P)** To begin, in "The People Could Fly," Virginia Hamilton shows the reader that freedom is achievable throughout deep and meaningful connections to culture and the past. **(E)** During the height of her torture, Sarah calls to her "father" Toby that she needs help "now before it's too late." **(T)** Toby hears his daughter's plea and recites to her in their native African language, "Kum . . . yali, kum buba tambe." **(T)** It is through these native words, through this connection to their African heritage, that Sarah, Toby, and a group of other slaves are able to fly. **(E)** They are able to achieve freedom through a spiritual connection to their past. **(P and E)** They are free on the outside now that they are free on the inside **(P and E)**.

Similarly, in Maya Angelou's poem, there is a connection between the spiritual and the physical. **(P)** In "Caged Bird," Angelou contrasts the darkness of imprisonment of the "enslaved" (or jailed) bird with the freedom of the free bird. **(E and T)** The thoughts of the free bird center on "another breeze" and claiming the sky as "his own." **(T)** These images of the beauty of nature reflect the spiritual freedom felt on the inside of the bird. **(E)** Thus, the bird's physical freedom is a representation of its spiritual freedom **(P)**.

Notice how the text is woven throughout to be seamless--No Bones Sticking Out!