

# Structure of an Essay:



# Body paragraphs

- Body Paragraph Frame:
  - *Topic sentence - your supporting argument that relates to your thesis statement*
  - **(C)ite** your *Evidence* (specific example, detail, or reason that “proves” the topic sentence)  
**[PLOT]**
  - **(E)xplain** the relevance of your evidence - *Commentary* (interpretation of how the example relates to the topic sentence.)  
**[THOUGHT]**
  - Additional supporting sentences with evidence and commentary.



# BALANCE!!!

- You want your body paragraphs to have a balance of plot and thought!
  - 50% PLOT (**C**)
  - 50% THOUGHT (**E**)
- It is acceptable to have more thought than plot but not the other way around.

# Sample body paragraph

An explicit reference is made to the image of a stone while Paul and his fellow soldiers are in the trenches. While describing the front-line and the constant barrage of fire, Paul states, “the front-line days...sink down in us like a stone” (138). A few pages later Paul makes another reference to the war like a stone that “sink[s] down” (140). The recurring reference to the stone, while he is in the trenches, suggests that Paul’s experiences on the front-line is weighing down the troops. Paul feels that the horrors of trench warfare due to the weapons and violence of war is taking away their hopes for the future and is contributing to a lack of purpose in the war. At the end of the section with this stone imagery, Paul explains the soldier’s mentality: “we cannot hold out much longer; our humor becomes more bitter every month” (140). Like a person carrying a great weight (or stone), the mounting pressure of trench warfare is taking its toll on the troops. The crushing effects of the stone occur later when Paul describes the tanks on the frontline.

**Can you identify the plot sentences and the thought sentences?**

# Sample body paragraph

An explicit reference is made to the image of a stone while Paul and his fellow soldiers are in the trenches. While describing the front-line and the constant barrage of fire, Paul states, “the front-line days...sink down in us like a stone” (138). A few pages later Paul makes another reference to the war like a stone that “sink[s] down” (140). The recurring reference to the stone, while he is in the trenches, suggests that Paul’s experiences on the front-line is weighing down the troops. Paul feels that the horrors of trench warfare due to the weapons and violence of war is taking away their hopes for the future and is contributing to a lack of purpose in the war. At the end of the section with this stone imagery, Paul explains the soldier’s mentality: “we cannot hold out much longer; our humour becomes more bitter every month” (140). Like a person carrying a great weight (or stone), the mounting pressure of trench warfare is taking its toll on the troops. The idea of crushing occurs later in another metaphor when Paul describes the tanks on the frontline.

Black = Plot

Red = Thought