

**Paragraph 2: First supporting paragraph (if possible, this should be the weakest of your three points)**

- Start with your topic sentence-your first main idea that relates to your thesis. The topic sentence focuses your paragraph on that one idea. Notice that the topic sentence begins with a transition that indicates that your argument has started. (One reason, to begin, first of all, first...)
- Develop your paragraph in ACES format with specific supporting arguments/details that clearly illustrate why your point is correct. You must use at least two direct quotes here. Notice that before the quotation, there is an introduction for the quotation so the reader understands its context, and that after the quotation, there is an explanation of why the quotation is relevant to the paragraph's topic.
- End by connecting your paragraph back to your thesis (sum up) and/or transitioning to the next idea.

**Example:** *One reason George is justified in his decision lies in the fact that Lennie simply cannot learn from his mistakes, dooming the two of them to a life of constant running while getting no closer to their dream of independence. From the beginning of the book, it is clear that Lennie repeatedly gets himself and often George into trouble because of his lack of self-control. The obvious example of this is his habit of killing of his pet mice, which he literally loves to death by squeezing their fragile bodies to the breaking point. Despite George's best efforts and to his own dismay, Lennie simply never learns to handle them with more care. More serious, however, is Lennie's inadvertent molestation of the girl in Weed, which is apparently what the two men are running from in the first place. As they discuss the incident in chapter one, George's concern over Lennie's forgetfulness and lack of control is apparent when he says to Lennie, "Oh, so ya forgot that too, did ya? Well, I ain't gonna remind ya, fear ya do it again" (7). George's comment shows his concern that even bringing up the incident could make Lennie repeat the behavior since he can never remember what he does wrong in the first place. Given that by the end of the book, Lennie has killed more mice, a puppy, and ultimately a woman, George knows better than anyone that Lennie is never going to get past his handicap, and probably will kill again, even if he doesn't mean to. Therefore, he had to kill Lennie to protect both himself and others from his unfortunate friend's destructive behavior.*

NAME

DATE:

**My Topic Sentence (my first supporting argument):**

**My reasoning that I explain and connect to my thesis:**

**Supporting detail 1 (C1):**

***Explanation/elaboration (E1, E1, E1...):***

***Supporting detail 2 (C2):***

***Explanation/Elaboration (E2, E2, E2...):***

***Supporting detail 3 (C3):***

***Explanation/Elaboration (E3, E3, E3...)***

**My paragraph conclusion that connects everything in this ¶ back to my thesis or transitions to the next supporting argument:**

\*Remember, this is all one paragraph!

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