

Round 1

THESIS

What we DON'T want here is a thesis that just gives a list of the points covered in your topic sentences. Follow the steps below to create a thesis that really encapsulates your big point without just listing its parts.

1. List vertically each of the definitions/understandings covered in your paragraphs.
2. Next to each definition, note which types of characters (corner boys, cops, politicians, etc.) operate with that understanding (who'd you mention in E?).
3. Use those character notes to make connections between definitions. You might make connections based on types of characters, which side of the law the characters are on, how widely accepted those understandings are, etc.
4. Build your revised thesis on those connections. For instance, a thesis built on connections of character type might start like this: "While the corner boys tend to agree that. . ." A thesis built on by-the-book legality might look like this: "[word] may not seem like a legal issue, but the characters in season 4 of *The Wire* show. . ."

Round 2

ORGANIZATION

You're going to workshop organization using topic sentences.

1. List all of your topic sentences.
2. Now, playing with different configurations, string those sentences together with transitions, and create a logical paragraph.
3. Once the logic makes sense, use the order of those sentences to reorganize your paper (moving paragraphs so that they match the sequence of topic sentences).

Round 3

EVIDENCE

This one is a checklist. Don't check the item off until you've checked EVERY piece of evidence for it.

- Dialogue is EXACTLY what is spoken in the show.
- Body language of characters (where pertinent) is described vividly.
- Facial expressions (where pertinent) are described vividly.
- Character movements (where pertinent) are described vividly.
- The context of the scene is clear (where it's happening, when, who's there, etc.).

Round 4

DISCUSSION

1. Immediately following each scene, we should see highlight, analyze, and explain. Assign a different color to each step, and mark the highlight, analyze, and explain steps following each piece of evidence with different colors. If you're missing a color or two (or three), add those sections.
2. At the end of each paragraph, we should get synthesis discussion—talking multiple examples together to make your point. Put brackets around [that synthesis discussion.]
3. Now carefully read those. Do those sentences just summarize what you've already written, or do they talk your examples together, making a new point about what you get when you add the two (or more)? Cut out any summary and replace it with that synthesis—thinking about what we get when we put those sources (characters/scenes) together that we don't have with just one of them.