*The First Stone* – Multi-paragraph Opinion Piece (Essay)

*Learning Goals:*

* *I can clearly convey and defend my ideas over a series of paragraphs by organizing and explaining them effectively.*
* *I can choose evidence from the text that effectively supports my ideas so that I can prove my point to my reader.*
* *I can use the writing process effectively to develop my ideas.*

A multi-paragraph opinion piece is the same as a paragraph, except that you’re using much more detail to develop your argument.

After finishing the novel, answer the following question over a series of paragraphs. Use the outline below to make sure your ideas are organized and clearly conveyed.

**What causes Reef to change by the end of the novel?**

**Step 1:** Answer the question

Make a list of reasons why Reef changes.

**Step 2:** Choose your 3 best reasons from above and find 2 pieces of evidence to prove each (one that shows what he was like before, and one that shows what he was like after)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| First Reason: | |
| Evidence to prove what he was like before (related to this reason) | Evidence to prove what he was like after (related to this reason) |
| Second Reason: | |
| Evidence to prove what he was like before (related to this reason) | Evidence to prove what he was like after (related to this reason) |
| Third Reason: | |
| Evidence to prove what he was like before (related to this reason) | Evidence to prove what he was like after (related to this reason) |

**Step 3:** complete the outline

**Paragraph 1** 🡪 Introduction

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Introduce the book** (title and author) and say a little bit about what happens to Reef |  |
| **Main idea** – What caused Reef to change and your 3 reasons |  |

**Paragraph 2** 🡪 First body paragraph

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic sentence** (introduce your first reason from your “main idea” and list your 2 examples) | Transition:  First point:  2 examples: |
| Point 1 | Transition:  State what your point is – how Reef was before: |
| Example 1 and explanation | Give your first example and explain how it proves what he was like before: |
| Point 2 | Transition:  State what your point is – how Reef changed: |
| Example 2 and explanation | Give your second example and explain how it proves he changed. |
| Concluding sentence | Transition:  Summarize your points and explain how this proves he changed. |

**Paragraph 3** 🡪 Second body paragraph

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic sentence** (introduce your second reason from your “main idea” and list your 2 examples) | Transition:  First point:  2 examples: |
| Point 1 | Transition:  State what your point is – how Reef was before: |
| Example 1 and explanation | Give your first example and explain how it proves what he was like before: |
| Point 2 | Transition:  State what your point is – how Reef changed: |
| Example 2 and explanation | Give your second example and explain how it proves he changed. |
| Concluding sentence | Transition:  Summarize your points and explain how this proves he changed. |

**Paragraph 4** 🡪 third body paragraph

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic sentence** (introduce your third reason from your “main idea” and list your 2 examples) | Transition:  First point:  2 examples: |
| Point 1 | Transition:  State what your point is – how Reef was before: |
| Example 1 and explanation | Give your first example and explain how it proves what he was like before: |
| Point 2 | Transition:  State what your point is – how Reef changed: |
| Example 2 and explanation | Give your second example and explain how it proves he changed. |
| Concluding sentence | Transition:  Summarize your points and explain how this proves he changed. |

**Paragraph 5** 🡪 Conclusion

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Restate main idea** – What caused Reef to change and your 3 reasons | Transition:  Restate main idea and reasons: |
| **Closing statement –** say something about why changing is important |  |