

## Essay Outline- Point by Point

Inquiry Question - How does one recover from loss?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Introduction

**Hook:** How does someone recover after a traumatizing incident? Should

**Titles and Authors:** one try to forget, or should they forgive?

"The Watch" Elie Wiesel

"I Lost my Talk" Rita Joe

### Background Information:

In "The Watch" the protagonist suffers the traumatizing experience of losing his family and friends during World War II. In "I Lost my Talk" the protagonist suffers

**Thesis:** the loss of her language & culture.

In both pieces, the protagonists suffer extreme oppression and must find ways to recover from their trauma. In "The Watch" the protagonist chooses to try to forget his past, whereas in "I Lost my Talk" the protagonist chooses to heal by recovering her culture and language.

### Body #1

#### Topic Sentence:

In "The Watch" the protagonist is reunited with a gold watch that symbolizes his past, which he re-buries in an effort to leave the past behind and move on.

#### Evidence from Literature #1:

The Watch has great significance as a symbol of his past.

**Details:** 1. He refers to the watch as "my past" at one point.

2. He digs it up after 20 years, refers to as "memory of the past"

#### Quotes to support:

"Could this thing... be my gift... my past?"

"memory of the past"

#### Explain how quotes support topic sentence:

The quotes suggests that the protagonist thinks of the watch as being a symbol of his past.

#### Evidence from Literature ~~#2~~ #1

He re-buries the watch

**Details:** 1. The watch, like him, has lost its luster.

2. As a symbol of his past, the protagonist does not want to be reminded of it and so re-buries it.

**Quotes to support:**

"unrecognizable & revolting"

#### Explain how quotes support topic sentence:

The watch, like his memories of the past, has become dirty & ruined, therefore he re-buries it to leave behind his memory.

### Body #2

**Topic Sentence:** In contrast, the protagonist in "I Lost my Talk" also suffers trauma but tries to recover her memories of the past.

#### Evidence from Literature ~~#1~~ #2

Her language/culture (represented by "talk", a metaphor) had become a "scrambled ballet",

- Details: 1. Cannot express herself in own culture  
2. Creates, thinks & talks like "you" (metaphor for Canadian colonial society).

Quotes to support:

"scrambled ballad"

Explain how quotes support topic sentence:

Represents her inability to coherently express her language

Evidence from Literature #2:

She tries to reclaim her "talk" (metaphor for language & culture.)

- Details: 1. She "gently offer hand" to recover language & culture  
2. She wants to "teach you about me"

Quotes to support:

"Gently offer hand"

"teach you about me"

Explain how quotes support topic sentence:

Contrasting the aggression of colonial society with her own gentle ways, she wants to ~~to~~ reclaim her identity and memories, to move on.

### Body #3 (optional)

Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence from Literature #1:

- Details: 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Quotes to support:

Explain how quotes support topic sentence:

Evidence from Literature #2:

- Details: 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Quotes to support:

Explain how quotes support topic sentence:

There are many ways to overcome trauma.

**Restate Thesis:** In "The Watch" the protagonist chooses to try to forget his past and move forward in life.

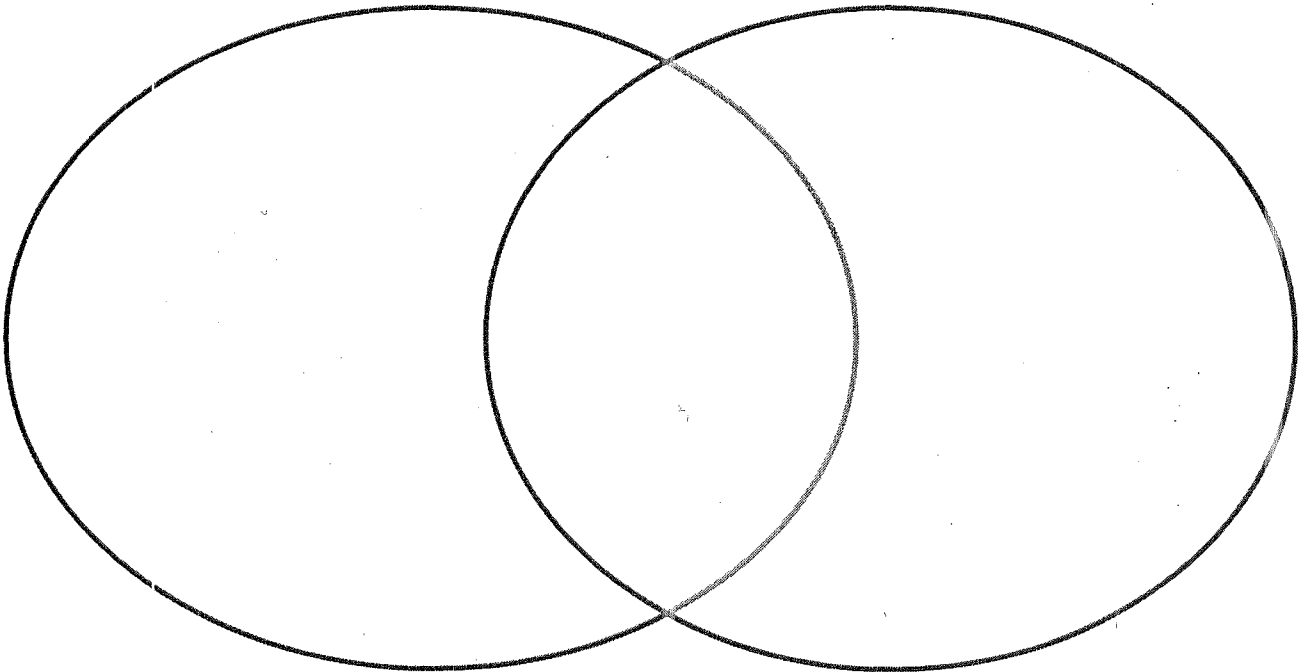
In ~~the~~ "I Lost My Talk" the protagonist tries to reclaim language's culture.

**Summarize your evidence:** "The Watch" is a symbol of his past which he'd rather forget. "I Lost My Talk" → recovers individual identity and way for self expression.

**Extend, go beyond, larger meaning:**

Regardless of whether one chooses to forget or remember trauma bravely, recovery from trauma is clearly a difficult, but necessary, process.

**Brain storm Ideas:**



**Formulate Ideas:**

Idea/connection	Literature #1	Literature #2
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		