Formal, academic paragraphs: expository, synthesis, argumentative

# Academic and formal writing have some rules.

## What NOT to do:

 No “I”, “you “, or “we” *Eg. The book taught me a lot about the importance of their culture in their everyday lives, and how it played a key role in their self-identity.*

No announcing- eg. “This quote shows…” or “This essay is about…” *Eg. A quote that I think helps show how we are connected to the land is, “Grandma tells me, ‘we are a part of the land…’ ‘As the land is a part of us,’ I say” (Goade 19-20). This quote talks about how we are connected to everything around us, especially the land.*

No cheerleading or inflated language including “good” and “bad”- Eg. “This story is excellent at showing…” or “This author is amazing at…”. And even if you are asked to state your opinion, use formal language such as “This author uses strong language…” or “The developed theme illustrates…”

 The title should hint at your argument- never use the question as your title

No absolutes - eg. “The people have always thought this way…” or “Society has never been the same…”

## What to do:

When analyzing literature, use present tense Eg. *As Nokomis said, "Water is the first medicine" (Lindstrom 4). This highlights the deep spiritual significance of water in Indigenous cultures.*

 Quotes must have context. No quote bombs. They must be introduced and explained. *Eg. For example, when Nókom was asked why she was forced to wear drab, dull, colours at the residential school, she replied that “they wanted [them] to look like everybody else,” instead of embracing their uniqueness (3). This is great!!!*

The title should be formatted properly in the intro as well as the rest of the essay. Don’t stop after the introduction sentence. Be consistent.

Save your document under an appropriate file name. Eg. Childrens Book Paragraph

Use the author’s full name the first time you write it. After that, refer to their **last name only**

Always use formal writing- pretend you are writing a textbook. *Eg. The First People’s culture teaches us that water is the key to all doors, and it is a never-ending circle within our universe. ~~If we break the circle, we will find ourselves trapped within a corner~~. (this is an example of informal language- don’t do it)*

**When writing about Indigenous people:**

 **Indigenous people are alive and thriving. Please don’t refer to them or their culture as “past tense”. Eg.** *Aboriginal culture was deeply rooted in trade and the sharing of goods, and this tradition greatly contributed to the long-term success of the Indigenous people as a whole.*

*Remember- your only source is your source (movie). Stick to what is in the movie.*