## Intro to Jane Schaffer Five Paragraph Essay

## **Basic Format**

- five paragraphs
  - paragraph 1: Introduction (introduces the topic and presents your thesis)
  - paragraph 2, 3, 4: Body Paragraphs (support your thesis through explanation and textual evidence)
  - paragraph 5: Concluding Paragraph (sums up your main points and restates your thesis, sometimes make a personal connection)

## **Introduction Paragraph**

- start broad (not specific) and then get very specific, ending in your thesis
- Thesis= the most important statement in the paper. All of your writing should center around this thesis. Topic + Opinion
  - example: "The character from the Harry Potter series that is the best example of the enduring power of friendship is Luna Lovegood."



## Body Paragraphs (the 2 Chunk Paragraph)

Supports your thesis through analysis and textual example

Sentence #1: Topic Sentence/TS (states the main idea of your paragraph)

Sentence #2: Concrete Detail (CD)

• A specific example (good) or quotation (better) from the text that supports your thesis.

Sentence #3 and 4 Commentary (CM)

• Explains HOW the Concrete Detail proves your thesis. You will take two sentences to do this.

Sentence #5 Concrete Detail (CD)

• A specific example (good) or quotation (better) from the text that supports your thesis.

Sentence #6 and 7 Commentary (CM)

• Explains HOW the Concrete Detail proves your thesis. You will take two sentences to do this.

Sentence # 8 Conclusion/Transition (CS)

 Restates your topic and transitions to your next paragraph

The Concluding Paragraph

- This should provide the closing comments of the paper.
- It should begin with re-statement of your thesis.



• In contrast to your introductory paragraph, it should move from the specific (your thesis) to the more general (some observation about life in general).