

Brief explanation:

Below is an example of how you should be critiquing your paragraphs. Essentially you are looking for the topic sentence (A), the relation to the thesis (B), and effective transitions (C). We will be looking at the second paragraph.

Follow along as we discuss in class.

Example Reverse Outline

Thesis:

Audiences are captivated by *The Walking Dead* because of its variety of characters, relatability, and compelling set design. These factors are important because they reflect the developing relationship between the everyman and modern media.

Body Paragraphs:

The Walking Dead is one of the most compelling shows on television because of its compelling set design. The series shoots on location in Georgia, creating its set in real neighborhoods, places, and other locations throughout Georgia. Many shows on television take place on sound stages specifically built for them, which is then modified week by week, setting by setting. In contrast, *The Walking Dead*'s current setting is in a town called Alexandria. The set, which includes a 15-foot tall metal barricade around the town, was actually built in a real neighborhood in Georgia—many of those houses are actually normal peoples' homes. This use of real settings rather than sound stages lends itself to the realism of the show, it makes it more powerful, allowing for more dynamic camera angles and changes in the setting as a whole; making it more real and complete. This believability allows the viewer to be transported into the setting of *The Walking Dead* without unnecessary leaps of imagination and suspension of disbelief—because it already takes place in reality, viewers need only imagine new characters rather than whole new worlds.

Along with using real locations for its settings *The Walking Dead* also invests a great deal of time and effort in creating visually stunning, practical effects that draw viewers in because they are unique in a time of computer animated visual effects. Visual media increasingly leans on computer generated animations for special effects and, even though the technology to render such images consistently improves, it is always obvious those effects are animated and it takes away from the immersive experience of the show or movie. On the other hand, *The Walking Dead* focuses on using make-up and practical effects in order to make their depictions look more real. Greg Nicotero, director and lead make-up artist on the show, staunchly insists “practical effects are just better” (Source #). When a television show uses a computer animated special effect, it is



obvious. However, practical effects have so much more of an impact on the audience in creating an immersive experience that draws in the viewer. By using practical effects, *The Walking Dead* makes the show much more real and immersive without the viewer being distracted by fake-looking computer-generated special effects. The use of practical special effects such as make-up, prosthetics, and animatronics contribute to the show's visceral aspect and draw in viewers because of the resulting realness.

- A. Practical special effects make TWD more popular because they are unique in comparison to digital effects.
- B. Practical special effects is part of the thesis. However, this paragraph could do better in explaining how exactly this relates to “the relationship between the everyman and modern media”— I think it is supposed to be “the immersive experience” but it never solidly draws the connection between modern media and the practical effects of the show.
- C. This paragraph follows style #1, the first paragraph wraps up in a concluding sentence and the second paragraph begins with a brief mention of the first paragraphs topic: “Along with using real locations for its settings TWD also...”

Overall Thoughts or Additional Comments:

This paragraph uses only one very short quote and includes no specific examples or descriptions of the practical effects or how they are used.

