



# Putting the Pieces Together

- After drafting your expanded outline, you will need to assemble your ideas effectively, establishing a sense of flow and purpose.
- As you write, keep the prompt in mind: **How do internal or external factors shape or transform worldview?**

## Construct body paragraphs

1. Begin with a topic sentence that supports the thesis
  - × This sentence should introduce a factor (in response to prompt)
  - × Avoid plot summary here; stick to answering the question
2. Provide an illustration of the **factor**
  - × **Lead-in** (*who, what, where, when?*)
  - × Evidence
  - × Analysis (What does the evidence show? Why is it important?)
3. **Add a transition: signal the connection between the first piece of evidence and the second**
4. Provide an illustration of the factor's effect on the character's **worldview**
  - × **Lead-in** (*who, what, where, when?*)
  - × Evidence
  - × Analysis (What does the evidence show? Why is it important?)
5. Wrap up your paragraph with a "so what?" sentence (a link); Now that we see what happened to the character, what can we say about worldview?

## Example

Nathan Price's conflicts demonstrate how the trauma of war can impact an individual's worldview. As his wife reflects on her husband's accidental survival of WWII, the reader catches a glimpse of Nathan's past: "They were...marched...emaciated, hallucinating from thirst and racked with malaria, toward a prison camp which few of them ever reached, and fewer survived. Nathan's company died...on the Death March from Bataan...[Nathan] came home with...a suspicion of his own cowardice from which he could never recover" (Kingsolver 197). The loss of his entire company marks a major turning point in Nathan's life. Unable to escape his feelings of guilt and cowardice, and feeling "the eye of God upon him," Nathan's goal in life becomes gaining God's approval (Kingsolver 197). Years later, the war's impact on Price's worldview is still evident as he takes his quest to the Congo: "[I]t had been a mistake to bend his will, in any way, to Africa. To reshape his garden into mounds; to submit to Tata Ndu on the subject of river baptism; to listen at all to Tata Ndu or even the rantings of Mama Tataba. It had all been a test of Nathan's strength, and God was displeased with the outcome. He would not fail again" (Kingsolver 97). Still driven by his fear of God's judgment, Nathan cannot see beyond himself. War's impact on Nathan Price thus demonstrates how traumatic experiences can limit an individual's worldview and his ability to find common ground with others.

Topic sentence supports thesis

Lead-in provides context

Evidence provides an illustration

Analysis explains what the evidence shows

A transition signals the connection between the first and second piece of evidence

"Link" sentence explains how this paragraph proves the thesis

# Draw a conclusion

A conclusion should stress the importance of the thesis, give the essay a sense of completion, leave a final impression on the reader, and **NEVER** begin with "In conclusion." A strong conclusion should also do the following:

## Answer the question "So what?"

- Show your readers why the analysis is important
- Help them see that your essay is meaningful and useful

## Synthesize rather than summarize

- Don't simply repeat what you already said in your essay; demonstrate how everything fits together
- Show how the points you made and the support and examples you provided were not random

## Redirect the reader

- Give your reader something to think about or a way to use your paper in the real world (think globally)
- While an introduction moves from general concept to specific point, a conclusion should go from specific to general

## Create new meaning

- You don't have to give new information to create a new meaning
- By demonstrating how your ideas work together, you can create a new picture

# Example

Perhaps most important of all, having seen the unfairness and narrow-mindedness of bigotry and snobbishness in their town, it seems almost certain that the children will judge others based on the decency with which they treat people, not on the color of their skin or their social standing in the community. Harper Lee skillfully uses the characters and incidents in *To Kill a Mockingbird* to paint a picture of bigotry and to send a message of tolerance. Surely someday someone will say of Jem and Scout that they are the people who are willing to do the town's unpleasant jobs, just like their father. The experiences and responses of Jem, Scout, and Atticus can serve as a lesson to all people to look beyond the surface in judging their fellow man.

# Food for thought...

Consider the following questions as you draft your conclusion:

1. If the character's circumstances had been different, would his or her worldview have been different? How? Why?
2. By examining the character's development in the book, what do we learn about the nature of worldview?
3. Does the author want us to strive towards something—some experience or situation, perhaps? In other words, are we supposed to be more like one individual and less like another? How? Why?
4. By conveying character experiences and perspectives, what do we learn about the author's perspective or worldview? What is his or her point? This could be a criticism of society or human nature, a hopeful message, or an invitation to *do* something—to change something about our world.