Hello, and welcome to NetTutor! How can I assist you today?

I need help with my final analysis paper for Professor Hurner's class. I have a few questions about my main body paragraphs. Sorry, I forgot to say hello!

No problem! I will need some more context regarding your assignment :)

Alright, thank you! I am in a Freshman Composition II class and we have our final analysis paper coming up. Professor Hurner is a perfectionist when it comes to these papers and I would really like to get an A.
I need help with my topic sentences. The paragraph that I need help with is analyzing and interpreting the book Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Okay! Let's go over an example of a topic sentence that you are having trouble with.

In the book Great Expectations, Charles Dickens shows the complexity of literature by the use of the the three main functions. chapter thirty-nine best portrays this theory.

I don't know whether or not to combine these two sentences and if I did, I don't know the best way to do so.

Well, one thing that might help is to add some specificity here. I'm assuming that you have already gone over the three main functions earlier in your essay, but you could maybe take that second sentence a step further: "Chapter 39 best portrays this theory through..."

This way, your readers will have more of a solid idea of where you will be going within the paragraph.

What are some of the topics you go over within this paragraph?

How about: "Chapter 39 best portrays this theory through the mimetic, esthetic, and didactic content that work together." No, the end of that is all wrong. Sorry, hang on

My brain is on overload

That's fine :) I'll give you a minute to collect your thoughts.

Are you still there?   Yes, sorry. I just can't seem to get my thoughts in order.

In the book Great Expectations, Charles Dickens shows the complexity of literature by the use of the the three main functions: didactic, esthetic, and mimetic. Chapter thirty-nine best portrays this theory through it's use of multi-functional content.

In the book Great Expectations, Charles Dickens shows the complexity of literature by the use of the the three main functions: didactic, esthetic, and mimetic. Chapter thirty-nine best portrays this theory through it's use of multi-functional content.

This seems like a great topic statement. :) It clearly and effectively shows what you will be discussing within the paragraph.

Yay! Was there anything else you would like to go over?

Um, yes. One more thing if you don't mind. Okay

In adding onto my topic sentence, what should I say? Is it okay if I jump to analysis and interpretation right away?

Definitely! It's always best to avoid extra "padding," so to speak. Just make sure you are including your evidence from the text so your readers can see what you are showing them.

Okay, awesome! Can I show you the sentence I have really quick? Of course.

The author seems to be wanting to convey a sense of normality and casual relaxation in the beginning of this chapter.

And then after this I'll go on and quote some of the actual text from the book as evidence.

All right. Was there something in particular that you were feeling unsure of or would like to go over?

Do you think that my description of the scene is a good one or should I rephrase it?

By description do you mean "a sense of normality and casual relaxation," or are you still copying it onto the whiteboard?

I mean "a sense of normality and casual relaxation."

Okay, that is a great place to start to avoid overwhelming your readers with details right off the bat.

As long as you include evidence from the text, such as specific tone words, to show your readers what you are telling them, that should be fine.

Could you elaborate on "specific tone words?"

A tone word is an example of how an author uses vocabulary to show tone in their writing. For example, the sentences "He walked slowly down the street" and "He trudged down the street" show basically the same action, but the choice in words show two completely different tones.

Ah! Right, I get it. So show an example from the text of the author's tone words. Gotcha.

Well, I think that's all for now. You have been exceedingly helpful, thank you very much! :D

No problem! If you need any further assistance, feel free to open a new live session or submit your draft for review.

Thanks again for using NetTutor, and have a great day!