

TEAL Paragraph Worksheet

Part 1: The TEAL Formula Explained

Use this breakdown to ensure every paragraph you write is structurally sound.

- **[T] Topic Sentence:** State the specific analytical claim this paragraph will prove. It must connect to your thesis and should not be a simple fact.
- **[E] Evidence:** Provide a direct quote, specific example, or piece of data from your source. Always include a citation.
- **[A] Analysis:** Explain **how** the evidence supports your claim and **why** it matters. This should be the longest part of your paragraph.
- **[L] Link:** Summarize your point and connect it back to the overall thesis or the next paragraph.

Part 2: Example Breakdown

Claim: *In "The Great Gatsby," the color yellow represents moral emptiness.*

- **[T]:** Gatsby's yellow car serves as a symbol of the "false gold" of the American Dream, masking a lack of substance with flashy wealth.
- **[E]:** After the accident, the vehicle is described as a "death car" (137) that had previously been seen as a sign of Gatsby's success.
- **[A]:** While yellow mimics the appearance of gold, it is merely a cheap imitation. This suggests that while Gatsby's wealth is visible and bright, it is ultimately hollow and destructive, leading to tragedy rather than true fulfillment.
- **[L]:** This transition from a symbol of status to a "death car" reveals the corruption inherent in pursuing wealth for its own sake.

Part 3: Practice Space

Fill in the blanks below to build your own analytical paragraph.

1. Topic Sentence (What is your claim?):

2. Evidence (Quote or Example + Citation):

3. Analysis (Explain the "How" and "Why" — aim for 3+ sentences):

4. Link (Connect it to your thesis):

Part 4: The "Analysis Check"

Before you finish, use the **2:1 Ratio** rule:

- Count the sentences of **Evidence**: _____
- Count the sentences of **Analysis**: _____
- **Goal:** Your analysis count should be at least double your evidence count.

