

Stargirl

Five Paragraph Persuasive Essay Project

She's as magical as the desert sky ... as strange as her pet rat ... as mysterious as her own name. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High School in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. The students of Mica High are enchanted ... at first. Then they turn on her and Stargirl is suddenly shunned. Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become something that is very foreign to her: normal.

Writing Topic (You will need to select one of the topics below for your persuasive essay)

- 1) Leo wanted Stargirl to fit in, so she changed her personality and her look to make Leo happy. Should Stargirl have changed to try to become more popular?
- 2) Near the middle of the novel, the student body turns against Stargirl in part because they are angry that she cheers for the both teams at the basketball games. Do you think that the student body is too harsh in the way that they react to Stargirl?
- 3) Archie says about Stargirl, "Star people are rare. You'll be lucky to meet another." By the end of the novel, Leo seems to realize what he has lost. Do you think Leo was mature enough to handle his relationship with Stargirl?

Once you pick a topic and form an opinion on it, you will need to write one clear thesis sentence to express your opinion. This one thesis sentence will be the sentence that you build your essay around.

Write your thesis sentence here.

Now that you have a thesis sentence, you need to come up with two supports for your argument. Using examples from the novel, write a sentence for two supporting arguments for you thesis.

1.

2.

The last piece that you will need before writing the essay is a counter argument that someone might use against your thesis. Think of an argument that someone might use to disagree with you. Write a sentence for this counter argument in the space below.

1.

We now have everything we need to write a five paragraph persuasive essay. Here is what you will need to include in each of the paragraphs for this essay.

- Paragraph # 1 This is called the introductory paragraph. In this paragraph, you need to state your thesis and briefly mention the two ideas that you are going to use to support the thesis. This is your first chance to impress the reader with your writing style, so choose your words carefully and provide some flair.
- Paragraph # 2 Use this paragraph to talk about the **first** supporting point you have listed above and mentioned briefly in the opening paragraph. Be sure to include examples from the novel to support this idea.
- Paragraph # 3 Use this paragraph to talk about the **second** supporting point you have listed above and mentioned briefly in the opening paragraph. Be sure to include examples from the novel to support this idea.
- Paragraph # 4 Mention the counter argument in this paragraph and show why it isn't valid.
- Paragraph # 5 This is the concluding paragraph. Tie everything together in this paragraph. Restate the thesis and briefly summarize how you have demonstrated it to be true. Do not add any new information in this paragraph.

After you have written your rough draft, we will type the final copies in the computer lab. Use the format below to help you with the typing.

The diagram shows a rectangular box representing a page of typed text. On the right side of the box, there are three lines of text: "Bill Philips", "March 5, 2008", and "Period A". An arrow points from the text "Proper Heading" to these three lines. Below the heading, the title "Remaining True to Yourself" is centered. An arrow points from the text "Title" to this title. Below the title, the first line of the paragraph is indented. An arrow points from the text "Use 1.5 Spacing" to this line. The rest of the paragraph is not indented. An arrow points from the text "Indent Start of Paragraph" to the beginning of the first line of the paragraph. The text of the paragraph is: "Is it more important to fit in with the crowd, or should we try to remain true to ourselves? This is a question that we all face and one that Stargirl has to deal"

Proofreading is absolutely necessary. Check your spelling and punctuation before turning in your final paper.