

Name _____

Mr. Arresto

Date _____

Writing Section # _____

Commentary Helpers

Use the following sentence helpers to write commentary. You may use the phrases the way that they are listed here, or you may change them to suit your needs. **These are not the only commentary helpers; they are just some suggestions.** In fact, commentary can be constructed without using any of the helpers below. Many of the commentary helpers below are meant for literary response, but the rest can be used for any type of writing.

Examples of commentary include prediction, opinion, insight, analysis, interpretation, inference, personal response, feelings, evaluation, explication, personal experience, and reflection.

Analysis

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This reveals...• This is important because...• This shows...• This demonstrates...• This is interesting, disturbing, etc. because...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This means... or The words/phrase " ____ " in the passage mean...• This illustrates, highlights, exemplifies...• One can see from this...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is important to notice that...• At this point in the story...• Perhaps• Maybe• ____ might mean that...
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Author

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The author reveals/shows/presents/emphasizes/suggests...• The author wants the reader to understand...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The author's use of ____ is revealing because...• The author's purpose of ____ is achieved in this quote when...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The author's point/idea is...• The author's argument is...• The author includes this in the story to show...
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Language

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The repetition of " ____ " shows...• The language of the passage reveals...• The ____ symbolizes....	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The reader is meant to understand that...• The point of this conversation is...• The use of the word ____ shows/is significant...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This passage/quote is effective because...• This event in the novel shows/proves/explains...• This quote/passage adds to the reader's appreciation of the story/poem because...
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Character/Conflict (Use the character's name instead of "the character" each time.)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The character makes this decision/says this because...This is important because...• Because of this, the character must...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At this point in the story, the character realizes...• When the character makes this choice, we see that...• In making this choice, the story changes...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The character has a choice between ____ and ____; the choice he/she makes reveals...• The character's choice has the following consequences...
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Conclusion

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The author uses the character _____ to show...• As a reader, we are meant to understand....• At the end of the story, the character has come to realize/understand....	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The author wants the reader to understand...• When we come to the last paragraph of the story, the reader is meant to understand that the character's decision to ____ was based upon _____. This is important because...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although the character initially felt ____, the events of the story caused him/her to have a change of heart/mind/attitude. Now, the character is ____ and this would not have been possible without ____.• Although the character began the story believing ____, by the end he/she has come to believe _____. It took ____ to bring about this change of thought, but ultimately...
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Remember, for every sentence of supporting details that you use from the text, you need to back it up with a sentence of commentary from your brain. This is called a **chunk**. By eighth grade, be prepared to write two sentences of commentary for every one sentence of supporting details.

Beware of the following common error:

CD: Harry Potter gains self-confidence after he enters Hogwarts.

CM: This reveals that Harry Potter gained confidence after he got to Hogwarts.

This is NOT commentary. Why?