

Annotated sample of one body paragraph from the Romeo and Juliet: Then and Now Essay
(The final essay would contain four such paragraphs, an introduction, and a conclusion.)

Clear topic sentence

While Capulet is often portrayed as a rage-a-holic who treats his daughter unfairly, most modern fathers understand what he is thinking and feeling. In Act III, Scene 5, he rages at Juliet for defying his wishes: "It makes me mad./Day, night, hour, tide, time, work, play,/Alone, in company, still my care hath been/To have her matched." In other words, he has worried all her life about making sure that when he is gone there would be a good man to take care of his daughter. This man, in his view, is Paris, a noble earl from a nearby town who has shown an interest in Juliet since the second scene in the play. Capulet has chosen Paris for Juliet because he loves her, not because he is being unreasonable. Paris is rich, good looking, and without the family conflicts of the Montague-Capulet feud, but Juliet has already married Romeo (secretly) and her father is angry that his efforts on her behalf have not been recognized. When my own daughter lived at home, I sometimes felt the same way. She would casually assume that it was okay for her to make plans with her teenaged friends instead of spending time with her family. I remember shouting: "You know, young lady, your mom and I work hard to provide you with all the conveniences of your life: a cell phone, a car to drive, a fridge full of food! It isn't too much for us to ask that you eat at home once in a while!" The time period is different, and of course I would never try to force her to marry someone she didn't know, but I completely understand how Capulet feels in this scene. Sometimes fathers get mad because they care about their kids more than the kids can imagine.

EVIDENCE:
REFERENCE TO
PLAY WITH
QUOTATION

WARRANT:
EXPLANATION OF HOW
THE QUOTE ILLUSTRATES
THE POINT

EVIDENCE:
EXAMPLE
FROM MODERN
WORLD THAT
SHOWS SIMILARITY
TO THE ORIGINAL
EVIDENCE

Conclusion/
RESTATEMENT
OF TOPIC
SENTENCE