

Valencia College  
HUM 2310 Mythology  
Instructor: Donald Cary

### Directions for Writing a CEC Paragraph

For most of the writing you will do this term, you will use what I call the CEC construction. You will write essays with introductory paragraphs and conclusion paragraphs, but the body paragraphs will make use of CEC. CEC is an acronym that stands for Claim, Example, and Commentary. This is the basis for all academic writing, even though the terminology might change.

**In each body paragraph you will first write a sentence that states your Claim.** When completing the orientation assignment, for example, you might write: “One element of the David Leeming’s introduction I found interesting was . . .” **This is your Claim sentence.** You are making a statement about something you found interesting, a point you found compelling, etc. The claim will change from assignment to assignment, but the first thing you must do is provide a way forward for your paragraph. The Claim begins the paragraph.

**Next comes the Examples.** In this section of the paragraph, you will explain why the Claim is true. “This element from the introduction is important because . . .” Most of the writing you will complete will be based on a text, so your examples will usually come from the text; however, you may use other types of examples as well: personal experiences, historical examples, scientific examples, current events, literature, etc. Make sure your Examples are substantial because they will make your paragraphs far more compelling.

**Finally, you will include what I call Commentary.** In this portion of the paragraph, you will explain why the Examples you have chosen helps illustrate the Claim. This is where you will tackle the “So What” of your writing. You made a Claim, then you found Examples to substantiate it, now you need to explain why it matters. Without this portion of the paragraph, your writing will be simplistic and lack strength.

You will complete as many CEC paragraphs as necessary for each assignment you complete. You decide on how many claims you will need to make when completing an assignment, but you should utilize this format when completing assignments, original discussion posts, the midterm exam, and the final exam. The fable assignment and the hero paper you will complete will be examples of narrative writing, so you will employ the appropriate strategies of setting, character, plot, conflict, etc.