

Narrative Essay Pattern

Sandra Cisneros “Only Daughter” p. 96

1. Where is the topic sentence in the opening section of the essay?
2. What level of formality is this essay? What point of view is expressed?
3. What is the main conflict in the full essay?
4. What is the secondary conflict that emerges in paragraph three?
5. Why does she continually repeat the title’s verbiage “Only Daughter” throughout the opening paragraphs?
6. In what manner does she shift focus in paragraphs six through eight?
7. Why do you think she only mentions her mother in paragraph sixteen?
8. What is relevant in the act of saving the last statement as her conclusion?

In other words, why didn’t Cisneros place this sentence at the beginning of the essay?

E. B. White “Once More to the Lake” p. 96

1. Why do you think the editors placed this essay in the Descriptive section of the text rather than Narrative?
2. What level of formality is this essay? What point of view is expressed?
3. What is the main conflict in the full essay?
4. Pay close attention the adjectives and examples used throughout the paragraphs. What is White’s intention using such language and imagery? (See ¶ 5 as example.)
5. In paragraph ten, White compares outboard motors with inboard. Are his opinions objective or subjective?
6. Why does he not offer the reader the name of his son?
7. What is relevant in the act of saving the last statement as his conclusion? Why does White cut the essay in such a dramatic manner?