Research Paper Step-by-Step

Construction of your final analysis project should follow a basic concept such as provided below. Remember, every paragraph consists of five (or more) sentences.

I. Introduction Paragraph establishes topic of paper and declares thesis.
- the full name of all authors must be shown
- the full title of each work must be shown
- explain any of the unifying elements within the works
    (characterizations, motifs, images, symbols, literary movement, genre, *etc.*)
- state thesis
- never show quotes in introductory paragraphs

II. Paragraph (¶) 2 provides quick summary of both plots.
- summary must be concise, precise, minimal
- each story's synopsis should be *less than four sentences*
- *this is the only section for plot synopsis*

III. Paragraph 3 discusses the authors' writing styles.
- describe the authors' styles: (flowery, terse, concise, in-depth, emotional, *etc.*)
- compare and/or contrast the two authors' styles
- state the tone for each story; what moods do the authors express in each story?
- **provide specific quotes from primary source** to explain observations; cite pages

IV. Paragraph 4 identifies multiple themes between the stories
- compare/contrast what you see as the two primary themes
- why is the theme significant? what makes it stand out?
- are they treated similarly?
- does one go in a different direction?

V. Paragraph 5 - Paragraph 20 shows research and observations from you, the critic
- Examine characters, conflicts, archetypes, symbols, narration, scenes, plot format, figurative language, authors' intentions (see analytical check list provided earlier)
- **in every ¶ include quotes from primary source or from critics**; cite pages.
- analyze each quote supplied; never end ¶ with quote

VI. Concluding Paragraph states main point of paper
- confirms the critic's analysis
- never present quotes in conclusion paragraphs

basic paper outline