Example of Body Paragraph 1 (MLA format)

One of the female characters in the story who is superior in intelligence to the male characters is Gilgamesh’s mother, Ninsun. Although Gilgamesh is the strongest and most powerful man in his kingdom, he still needs his mother’s advice and regularly asks her to interpret his dreams. One evening, Gilgamesh has a dream about “a star fall[ing] from the sky,” and Ninsun responds by telling him that this star represent his “equal” (19). Gilgamesh has this dream immediately before Enkidu arrives in Uruk. As such, Ninsun’s interpretation of the dream is profound in that she predicts Enkidu’s arrival. Ninsun also demonstrates her wisdom when she speaks to the gods after learning that Gilgamesh has planned to go kill Humbaba. Ninsun, quite distressed, pleads to the god Shamash: “Why did you give my son a restless heart? …you send him on a journey to a battle he may never understand” (33). Although most people in Uruk are intimated by Gilgamesh and consider him to be invincible, Ninsun is insightful enough to perceive her son’s weaknesses and limitations. She is concerned that his restlessness will ultimately lead him to sorrow, and she realizes that Gilgamesh is entering a physical and emotional battle that he is not astute enough to understand. Again, Ninsun is a wise character who has the ability to predict future events and to analyze others’ shortcomings.

Here’s the same paragraph, “broken down” as it would appear in your rough draft packet:

TOPIC SENTENCE: One of the female characters in the story who is superior in intelligence to the male characters is Gilgamesh’s mother, Ninsun.

SET-UP: Although Gilgamesh is the strongest and most powerful man in his kingdom, he still needs his mother’s advice, and he regularly asks her to interpret his dreams.

EXAMPLE: **One evening, Gilgamesh has a dream about “a star fall[ing] from the sky,” and Ninsun responds by telling him that this star represent his “equal” (19).**

CONNECTION: Gilgamesh has this dream immediately before Enkidu arrives in Uruk. As such, Ninsun’s interpretation of the dream is profound in that she predicts Enkidu’s arrival.

SET-UP: Ninsun also demonstrates her wisdom when she speaks to the gods after learning that Gilgamesh has planned to go kill Humbaba.

EXAMPLE: **Ninsun, quite distressed, pleads to the god Shamash: “Why did you give my son a restless heart? …you send him on a journey to a battle he may never understand” (33).**

CONNECTION: Although most people in Uruk are intimated by Gilgamesh and consider him to be invincible, Ninsun is insightful enough to perceive her son’s weaknesses and limitations. She is concerned that his restlessness will ultimately lead him to sorrow, and she realizes that Gilgamesh is entering a physical and emotional battle that he is not astute enough to understand.

CONCLUSION SENTENCE: Again, Ninsun is a wise character who has the ability to predict future events and to analyze others’ shortcomings.

Here’s the same paragraph, with highlighted transition words and phrases

One of the female characters in the story who is superior in intelligence to the male characters is Gilgamesh’s mother, Ninsun. Although Gilgamesh is the strongest and most powerful man in his kingdom, he still needs his mother’s advice and regularly asks her to interpret his dreams. One evening, Gilgamesh has a dream about “a star fall[ing] from the sky,” and Ninsun responds by telling him that this star represent his “equal” (19). Gilgamesh has this dream immediately before Enkidu arrives in Uruk. As such, Ninsun’s interpretation of the dream is profound in that she predicts Enkidu’s arrival. Ninsun also demonstrates her wisdom when she speaks to the gods after learning that Gilgamesh has planned to go kill Humbaba. Ninsun, quite distressed, pleads to the god Shamash: “Why did you give my son a restless heart? …you send him on a journey to a battle he may never understand” (33). Although most people in Uruk are intimated by Gilgamesh and consider him to be invincible, Ninsun is insightful enough to perceive her son’s weaknesses and limitations. She is concerned that his restlessness will ultimately lead him to sorrow, and she realizes that Gilgamesh is entering a physical and emotional battle that he is not astute enough to understand. Again, Ninsun is a wise character who has the ability to predict future events and to analyze others’ shortcomings.