

Example

Step 1 – **TOPIC** - In one **theme statement** tell what the story is **REALLY** about.

Discovering your true self

Step 2 – Write **2 sentences** about the **TOPIC**. Why is it important?

Discovering your true self is important because, as individuals, we need to be proud of who we are. A person's identity is what makes each individual unique and different.

Step 3 – Write **1 sentence** telling what happens in the story. Start with “In the story...” **MUST INCLUDE**: the title, the author's name, and the characters' names.

*In the story, “Two Kinds” by Amy Tan, Jing-mei is in constant conflict with her persistent mother, struggling to **assert** her own power and to control her own destiny.*

Step 4 – Write **1 sentence** that tells the **lesson** that the character learns about the **TOPIC** mentioned in **Step 1**.

*Jing-mei does not want to be the **prodigy** her mother desires her to be; she yearns to be her true self, nothing more, nothing less.*

Step 5 – Add a **transition starter** to the beginning of the first **DETAIL** that you chose from the **Motivation Chart** (the gray section). The **transition** should lead smoothly into your quote and connect to the sentence from **Step 4**.

Possible Transition Starters: After...	When...	Even though...	For example...
For instance...	In the beginning...	Despite...	In spite of...
			At first...

One night after Jing-mei's mother persists to test her again to see if she is a genius, Jing-mei loses control confessing, “...I looked in the mirror...and when I saw only my face staring back - and understood that it would always be this ordinary face - I began to cry...I made high-pitched noises like a crazed animal, trying to scratch out the face in the mirror” (Tan 2).

Step 6 – Write **2 sentences** of **Elaboration/Opinion** about the **Detail** mentioned in **Step 5**. Look to the right hand side of your **Motivation Chart** (the white section).

Jing-mei is tired of trying to be who her mother wants her to be. All she wants is for her mother to accept her for who she really is.

Step 7 – Add a **transition starter** to the beginning of the second **DETAIL** that you chose from the **Motivation Chart** (the gray section). The **transition** should lead smoothly into your quote and connect to the sentence from **Step 6**.

Possible Transition Starters: After...	At the end of the story...	Even though...
For instance...	As a consequence...	Despite...
	In spite of...	Eventually...

*Later when her mother pushes her to become an expert at the piano, Jing-mei's patience finally breaks and she **laments**, "Why don't you like me the way I am? I'm not a genius! I can't play the piano" (Tan 3).*

Step 8 – Write **2 sentences** of **Elaboration/Opinion** about the **Detail** mentioned in **Step 7**. Look to the right hand side of your **Motivation Chart** (the white section).

Jing-mei is tired of her mother forcing her to be something that she is not. She realizes that being a prodigy is her mother's dream, not hers.

Step 9 – Now it is time to wrap up your piece of writing with **Concluding Sentence**. You may use a **transition starter** if you so choose, but you do not have to.

Possible Transition Starters: Finally...	As a result...	In conclusion...
After all that happened...	Eventually...	Later...
		In the end...

As a result, it was not until many years later that Jing-mei could forgive her mother for the pain and suffering she endured as a child. Pain and suffering that could have been avoided had her mother just been proud of who Jing-mei really was, herself.