

Graphic Organizer for the Model Argumentative Essay

Essay Topic: "The Wise Men and the Elephant" and "Seven Blind Mice" are both versions of the same fable. Which one is the most effective at reflecting the underlying meaning of the story. Write an Argumentative Essay making the argument that one of these versions of the story is better than the other.

Attack the Prompt

- Hook your audience and give relevant **Background Information**.
- State your **Claim**
- Acknowledge the **Counterclaim**

Raise the question about possible confusion created when trying to learn a lesson...and the result of a better retelling of the lesson.

"Seven Blind Mice" is a better version of the fable.

The Wise Men and "Seven Blind Mice" are like that.

Some people will like the original better.

Thesis statement – Claim + at least 3 Reasons **"Seven Blind Mice" is a better because of Young's use of image, color, and symbolism.**

Attack Your Thesis – First Reason Major Support

Young's use of the pictures of the mice strengthen the story.

1

Bring It! Minor Support

- *The pictures of the mice watching as each leaves on his mission. All focus on that mouse.
- *The pictures help the reader see what the mice cannot. Each mouse has experienced something different.
- *Every mouse is limited by his own experience and think everyone else is wrong because their report is different.
- *Since the reader can see what is causing the problem the pictures help take the story to another level.

So What? – Transition to Next Paragraph

Attack Your Thesis – Second Reason Major Support

Young's use of color adds to the story.

2

Bring It! Minor Support

- *Each mouse is represented in his own unique color – symbolizes his point of view.
- *Even though the mice can't see this, the reader can and it helps them keep track of the mice.
- *When each comes back to tell, their story is told in their color. This level of symbolism doesn't exist in the other fable.
- *No mouse can see anything other than his own point of view, but the reader can.

The original fable lacks this level meaning and the help it contributes to understanding

So What? – Transition to Next Paragraph

Attack Your Thesis – Third Reason Major Support

The addition of white mouse adds another level of meaning to the story.

3

Bring It! Minor Support

- *White Mouse is the last to go and is the only one who listened to all of the stories.
- *Instead of listening, the other mice did the same thing as the blind men, argued.
- *She figures it out and helps the other "see" the relationship between all of their stories.
- *White is also the scientific combination of all of the other colors.
- *She takes the reader far beyond the arguments that end the other version.

So What? – Transition to Next Paragraph

Counter Claim

- Recognize the **Opposing View**
- Examine the **Validity** of it

Crush it **This assumes that the reader will actually figure it out. Many only figure out the meaning on the surface and miss the deeper meaning. Those individuals risk the same fate as the men. Young's story assures the reader will reach that deeper meaning.**

Close the Deal

- Restate your claim in a different way
- Review your thesis statement

Drive home your point with a powerful closing thought

Young understood the challenge represented by the original, so he improved it so even kids could understand.

His use of image, color and symbolism make his version a more powerful learning experience.

He adds meaning that goes beyond the original making it a much more effective teacher. The addition of the white mouse adds an important lesson for male readers that the wise men can't compete with.