SAT Essay help for Canterbury Tales essay

Understand that this essay is an introduction, two body paragraphs, and a conclusion-four paragraphs total. How to write these paragraphs is outlines step-by-step below. The directions are in normal font. The examples are in italics and correspond with the last row of boxes above. Keep in mind that the point of this whole essay is to answer the same question that you did for the “Beowulf hero” paragraph and the “Knight’s Tale” paragraph: How does the author make his claim clear through the use of author’s craft tricks. Your author’s claim is the theme in the box above and the author’s craft tricks are in the boxes as well.

**Introduction**: Do these three things in order

1. Write a summary of the claim. State what Chaucer was trying to make clear. Summarize the theme. Punctuate the title of your tale correctly: *In Canterbury Tales, Geoffrey Chaucer argued that the more points of view that are involved, the more accurate the whole picture.*
2. Cite two ways that the author did this. List, but don’t yet elaborate, the two literary devices (in other words, author’s craft tricks) you will use to make the claim clear: *The author used a constant change in narrative point of view and having characters grow from a change in perspective to make this clear.*
3. Link the two ideas that you have written so far. Make the author’s overall purpose and how it affects the audience clear: *In order to show his readers that multiple, different perspectives are needed to get an accurate picture of the human experience, the author told different tales from different character’s points of view and developed his characters through empathy.*

**If you did this correctly, your introduction should sound something like this:**

*In Canterbury Tales, Geoffrey Chaucer argued that the more points of view that are involved, the more accurate the whole picture. The author used a constant change in narrative point of view and having characters grow from a change in perspective to make this clear. In order to show his readers that multiple, different perspectives are needed to get an accurate picture of the human experience, the author told different tales from different character’s points of view and developed his characters through empathy.*

**Body Paragraphs**: For each body paragraph, do these things in this order

1. “Locating” transition: *Throughout all of his tales,…*
2. Topic sentence that states the paragraph’s purpose. Since the entire purpose of the essay is to state how the claim is true through literary devices, this topic sentence should sound like, “The author uses (literary device) to prove his claim that (theme).” *Throughout all of his tales, Chaucer changed points of view multiple times to show the reader that multiple points of view are necessary to understand the human experience effectively.*
3. Cite/highlight/mention specific word for word examples from the text that prove the topic sentence. This means “copy/pasting” the literary device from the text and explaining how the text words are in fact examples of that author’s craft technique. *The Canterbury Tales are told from multiple different perspectives. Four tales specifically are from the perspective of four different narrators: The Miller, the Knight, the Wife of Bath, and the Pardoner. Each narrator has his/her own prologue before the tale that makes each narrator’s own unique story telling perspective clear. For example, the Wife of Bath makes it clear she is a feminist and the Pardoner make it clear he is a shrewd, preachy con man.*
4. “HOW” ANALYSIS: This is the most important part of your paragraph. It should be three sentences AT LEAST. These are sentences that directly accomplish your task by explaining HOW the author used writing tricks effectively to prove his/her claim. In other words, how does that specific author’s craft thing make the author’s claim clear? Use the following sentence stems to help you frame your 3-5 “how” analysis sentences if you would like.

*Chaucer used these numerous, different authors in order to paint a clearer picture of the human experience. Just by reading four of the Canterbury Tales, the reader can see a moral or lesson from a loud drunk (the Miller), a valiant hero (the Knight), a women’s rights advocate (the Wife of Bath), and a religious hypocrite (the Pardoner). Each moral is completely different and unique. By reading four different points of view, the reader gets a colorful, complete perspective on how humans should and should not interact. If there was only one point of view, the reader would be lacking key elements of the human experience.*

The author challenges the audience to… The author establishes the idea that X by…

The writer builds his argument by… By doing this, the author...

(Author name) adds credibility to her claim by… In this way, (author’s name)…

This (author’s craft evidence) provides X for the readers by…

This (author’s craft evidence) urges the reader to…

This (author’s craft evidence) furthers the argument because…

1. For the second body paragraph, follow the same structure as the previous body paragraph and:
	* Start with a supplemental transition such as, *An additional way the author clarified her claim can be found…*
	* Be sure the literary device (author’s craft trick) you use to prove the author’s claim in this paragraph is unique and different from the one you used in body paragraph #1

**Conclusion**: Do these things in this order

1. Start with a synthesis transition like, *Therefore,* OR *Overall,* OR *With all this in mind,*
2. One sentence that states that the argument was “good.” *The author’s claim that multiple points of view are need to completely understand the human experience impactful.*
3. Restate the examples used in the body paragraphs. *Multiple narrators and character developing through empathy both made the author’s claim that “Perspective matters” clear.*
4. Add at least two more sentences of analysis *The multiple points of view of the Canterbury pilgrims are the richness of the human experience. Because Chaucer kept changing points of view, the reader had many layers of the human experience to fill in the complete picture that he was painting. The different characters telling their story were the multiple colors of the rainbow. If Chaucer would have deleted one or more, the rainbow would be less colorful and the reader would be missing crucial parts of what it means to be human.*