

Peak Final – Assignment Strategies

Question 1 – Themes

1. Choose your four themes; use a dictionary to help you choose.
2. Set up your research paper:
3. For each topic, find as many Examples as you can. Some will be weaker than Others.
Look at each: Character
Conflict (major and minor)
Scene / chapter
4. Focus on one topic at a time until ALL of your research is done (first 5 steps)
5. Pick your three strongest examples and find evidence to back it up (2 – 3 pieces each. Then back it up with an explanation (why did you choose it, why does it support etc.)
6. Put all of the above information into ONE paragraph. Sandwich the information based upon strength of argument: Strongest = 1, Weakest = 3; Order: 2 – 3 – 1

--	--	--	--

Relationships: siblings, father-son, climbers-mountain, climbers-death, parent-child, friendship, guide-climber, authority-citizen, China-Tibet,
* choose THREE – try to find those that are not similar

Survival: altitude/acclimatization; being selfish; HAPE; weather (visibility, temperature, precipitation etc.); supplies/gear (clothes, food etc.); terrain (rocks, crevasses, avalanches, ice falls); teamwork (guide, sherpas, medical unit); preparation (fitness, planning, risk-management – see problems before they happen) and good decision making / level headed

Change: people – personalities / behaviours; physical changes (fitness / acclimatization / deterioration in Death Zone); relationships (friendships / partnerships); self-awareness (what you know about yourself, and your relationships with others ie: Peak – Josh)

Courage: saving a friend; risk-taking; challenging yourself (and what you THINK you are capable of... mind over matter); expressing your feelings (hurt, angry, sad, weak, jealous, or embarrassed, glad of someone's failure); saying no / admitting defeat / facing failure; defying government / authorities / death;

Honesty: telling whole truth / half-truth; full disclosure / cagey; reasons behind being honest – protect yourself, others, need-to-know basis; Character – are they generally honest and good, or selfish and mean / deceitful?

Betrayal: trust; friendship; for gain; to protect; perceived vs. actual (ie: did it just seem

like they were lying, or did you not HEAR that they were telling you the truth?); betrayal by hiding information;

Love: **family** (Peak-Dad; Peak-Peas; Peak-Mom; Peak-Rolf; Sun-jo-Zopa; Zopa-son);
Friendship (Peak-Sun-jo; Josh-Zopa; Josh-Zopa's son; Josh-Peak's Mom; Peak-Holly); **Passions: mountain** – Josh, Peak, Zopa, Yogi-Yash (income, thrill/fulfillment/happiness, spiritual meaning); **Writing:** Vincent, Peak, Holly;

For each:

State the theme and it's proof (relationship, idea etc.); provide a DETAILED example; examine ALL sides of your proof. (From the perspective of each person, positive / negative etc.)

Topic sentence / introduction idea: (You may copy this example and adjust it to fit YOUR essay.)

“ There are many themes (present / covered / introduced) in the novel Peak. Some of the most (prominent / important / big / developed) themes are _____, _____ and _____. The author used these themes to create an exciting, action packed story for his readers.

Paragraph #2: theme #1 and details....

Topic 2: Conflict in Literature

1. Set up your research papers:
- one per conflict

--	--	--	--	--

2. Title each page with the type
of conflict (with definition).

3. Brainstorm a LIST (5) examples for EACH conflict. Space them out down the page, with room for notes below. (eg: 5 – 6 lines each)

* include WHO is in conflict and their role (man, nature, self etc.)

* describe the conflict: what happened, why it happened, what was the result etc. (5Ws and How)

- write down the page number for the conflict
- include 1 – 3 quotes that ‘prove’ this is an example of the type of conflict you are demonstrating if possible.
 - Eg: Man vs. Self – conflict is in character’s head. Find examples of his / her thoughts that show the argument taking place, or find examples of how their feelings / words / actions don’t match what you know they believe to be right...

4. Narrow down your information to the BEST three examples.

5. Put your three best examples into a paragraph. Allow for 3 – 4 sentences per example, plus your topic and concluding sentence.

6. If you are writing the assignment as an essay, start with a topic paragraph:

* **First topic sentence** will introduce the idea of conflict: “The novel Peak has many examples of the five types of conflict found in literature.”

- **Next sentences** will list them.
- **Third sentence** (concluding sentence for opening paragraph) leads into your first topic.)
- **Paragraph Two:** topic sentence will introduce conflict #1, then your three examples, and then a wrap-up sentence. NO HEADINGS. (You used topic sentences instead...)
- **Paragraph Three:** topic sentence will refer a little to topic #1, then move quickly to focusing on topic #2 (this is called a transition...). Add three examples, and wrap up.

- **Wrap-up sentences** should contain a ‘hint’ of your next topic. Find something they BOTH have in common for a smooth transition.
- **Concluding paragraph:** summarize main ideas and add a final sentence. (Final means there is no further information, the reader knows it’s done, and it does NOT include a question, thank yous, or any personal pronouns (I, my, you, your etc.) Do include a general
- comment about the topic.

Topic #3: Moral of the Story / Peak Learns...

1. Set up your research papers:
2. List all of the things that Peak learns while on Everest:
 - about himself (likes / dislikes; strengths/weaknesses; opinions/views) **a**
 - about his father **b**
 - about his mother / siblings **b**
 - about his feelings **a**
 - about friendship **b**
 - about fairness **c**
 - about how society works (NY and having to leave, politics, media etc.) **c**
 - about trust **c / b / a**
 - about selfishness **c / a**
 - about ambition (climbers want the summit; don't care about a kid etc...) **c**
 - about equality **c**
 - about human rights **c**
 - about life of children in other countries / his privileged life **c**
 - about survival on the mountain **c**
 - about mountaineering **c**
 - —
 - —
 - —
3. Sort your 'learning' ideas into three categories:
 - a. Self (inner thoughts, self-discovery etc.)
 - b. Family / friends and relationships
 - c. Skills / general knowledge and worldviews (how you see the world)
 - d. (Any one could be divided if you have enough material)
4. Give a page to each category (or use index cards to start) and begin collecting evidence to show the learning / growth for each idea
5. Include quotes and page numbers whenever you can to strengthen your argument / proof.
6. Begin to piece together your paragraphs.
 - a. Organize your categories' information in sandwich form (2nd strongest, weakest, strongest) to start
 - b. Decide if any information is too weak to include (take out)
 - c. Move information to other places if it is really good stuff, but doesn't fit in with the other material (interrupts the flow of your paragraph) or give it its own paragraph (be sure it can stand alone – you have enough 'proof' etc.)
7. Fine tune your writing – be sure there are transitions between your paragraphs.
8. Once your 'body' is done, write your introductory paragraph. Be sure to list your 'learning' ideas in the order you plan to put them in your essay.
9. Write your conclusion.

--	--	--

10. Proofread – pick out any loose ideas (take them out, or make them stronger with proof)