

Outline for *The River Between* by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

Name: _____ School: _____ Section: _____

Essay Prompt: _____ TOPIC: _____

I. Introduction (Grab attention; give background; make thesis clear)

A. Hook (Grab the reader's attention; relate to life – a statement, question, famous quote – not a quote from the book; **avoid** using “you”) _____

B. Short background (2 – 3 sentence overview; author's name, title of the book in *italics*, general overview: who, what, when, where, why, how – relevant to your thesis) _____

C. Thesis _____

D. Blueprint (optional) _____

II. Body Paragraph 1 (Develop Assertion #1 to support the thesis.)

A. Transition and TOPIC SENTENCE A (assertion #1) _____

B. Supporting details: (Provide specifics about assertion #1; include at least one cited passage).

1. Context (lead into your evidence by describing what's happening at this moment in the text)

2. Evidence (specific wording from the text that proves assertion #1)

3. Commentary (explain why your evidence is relevant and what it proves)

4. Context, evidence, and commentary (for a 2nd piece of evidence from the text)

C. Closing sentences (Conclude ideas for assertion #1 & transition to your next assertion.)

III. Body Paragraph 2 (Develop Assertion #2 to support the thesis.)

A. Transition and TOPIC SENTENCE A (assertion #2) _____

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B. Supporting details: (Provide specifics about assertion #2; include at least one cited passage.)

1. Context (lead into your evidence by describing what's happening at this moment in the text)

2. Evidence (specific wording from the text that proves assertion #1)

3. Commentary (explain why your evidence is relevant and what it proves)

4. Context, evidence, and commentary (for a 2nd piece of evidence from the text)

C. Closing sentences (Conclude ideas for assertion #2 & transition to your next assertion.)

IV. Body Paragraph 3 (Develop Assertion #3 to support the thesis.)

A. Transition and TOPIC SENTENCE A (assertion #3) _____

B. Supporting details: (Provide specifics about assertion #2; include at least one cited passage.)

1. Context (lead into your evidence by describing what's happening at this moment in the text)

2. Evidence (specific wording from the text that proves assertion #1)

3. Commentary (explain why your evidence is relevant and what it proves)

4. Context, evidence, and commentary (for a 2nd piece of evidence from the text)

C. Closing sentences (Conclude ideas for assertion #3 & transition to your next assertion.)

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V. Conclusion

A. Transition (gracefully tell the reader your paper is ending) and echo the thesis (creatively summarize and reword your thesis) _____

B. Remind reader of three main points & evidence _____

C. End with an interesting application for your reader (analysis of evidence, why the thesis is important at a broader level; apply to life, but avoid introducing any too new ideas.)

D. Final Statement (End your essay with gusto!) _____

VI. TITLE (Create a creative and interesting title that relates to your topic and thesis.)

An example for an expository essay: Love and Loyalty on the Home Front: A Comparison of Penelope in *The Odyssey* and Penny in *O' Brother, Where Art Thou?*

Example for a persuasive essay: The Romans: Why Military Expansion Led to Their Downfall

Your Title _____

The focus of this paper may be on one or more of the following writing conventions,

- _____ Introduction (writing "hooks" as part of the introduction)
- _____ Writing conclusions (do new ideas ever fit here?)
- _____ Thesis development (the key to any writing)
- _____ Citations (the when, where, and how of citing in MLA style)
- _____ Integrating quotes (provide clear signal phrases that include author's name)
- _____ How to paraphrase (retelling information in roughly the same number of words)
- _____ Voice: writing for the proper audience (writing "voice" changes based on your audience)
- _____ Writing effective titles (sets the tone. Your reader's first impression is formed)
- _____ Rewriting and editing (the importance of proof-reading and fixing mistakes)
- _____ Conventions: Grammar and syntax (the key to your paper making sense)

VII. FORMATTING: Please use MLA formatting. Details and example papers available on the Diana Hacker website: http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_s5.html