

Making Connections Paragraph

Formula

1. Introduce story #1 (small summary)
2. Introduce story #2 (small summary)
3. These two stories share certain similarities.
4. THESIS: The main similarity is....
5. Story #1: prove thesis with explanation and quotes
6. Story #2: prove thesis with explanation and quotes
7. Concluding sentence: Clearly both stories are similar in that they...

Example

How is the Character Sketch/Monologue you wrote similar to the first five chapters of *In the Heat of the Night*?

The character sketch I wrote was about an individual who was covered in tattoos and facial piercings; I described him as aggressive, fearless and a danger to society. In the first five chapters of John Ball's *In the Heat of the Night*, we are introduced to the central theme of the novel, a number of characters and a murder; we learn that Virgil Tibbs is falsely arrested for the murder and is in fact an African American police officer from Pasadena. Both pieces of writing share certain similarities. The main similarity is that both pieces judge individuals based on their appearance. In the character sketch I wrote, I identified the personality traits of someone I had never met. Based on the tattoos and the piercings, I assumed they were aggressive, fearless and a danger to society. Even if I am wrong, the individual clearly showed "their anger and aggression on their face", allowed other human beings "to permanently scar and disfigure their face" and ultimately "possess no moral compass or understand virtues." In the novel, *In the Heat of the Night*, a murder has taken place and there is a murderer on the loose. Police Officer Sam Wood is on the hunt when he comes across a black man at the train station. Sam "sized [the man] up at a glance, and knew at once that he did not belong in Wells" (14). Sam assumed that the man was the murderer "because he's a Negro" (57). While the suspicions are put to rest by the end of chapter 2, the other character's judge Virgil Tibbs just as harshly. In a conversation with Duena Mantoli, Sam admits that because Virgil is a Negro, there may be trouble (57). Clearly both pieces of writing are similar in that they both have examples of harsh judgement based on appearance.