

Character Sketch Outline

Introduction/First paragraph

In the first paragraph introduce the novel, author, character, background information on the character, and the importance of the character to the story. Do this in 4 to 5 sentences. Complete the paragraph with one more sentence. This final sentence will create a thesis statement about the character trait or quality you attribute to the character. A thesis statement is the position you want to prove. This thesis statement will be the last/concluding sentence to your introductory paragraph.

Second Paragraph

In the second paragraph focus on the character trait you set out in your thesis statement. Give support to establish and explain that the character demonstrates the trait you have mentioned in the first paragraph. You must find at least one example from the text that demonstrates the character has this particular character trait. This will require a minimum of 4 to 5 sentences.

In General

Remember to follow the format for paragraph writing we have been working on. Begin with an introductory statement. Follow this with the body of the paragraph. These sentences should expand upon the opening sentence. Finish the paragraph with a concluding statement that sums up the paragraph without simply restating the opening statement. Also keep in mind that every paragraph should have only one main thought.

Character Analysis – Ebenezer Scrooge

The novel The Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, is a story of one character's redemption. Ebenezer Scrooge is a cruel and heartless businessman who hates Christmas. He wants nothing to do with the season until one Christmas Eve when he is visited by the ghost of his partner Jacob Marley. This visitation eventually leads to his meeting with the three spirits of Christmas who teach Scrooge about the true meaning of Christmas. Scrooge's actions at the beginning of the story appear to demonstrate that he is a character that is beyond all hope. However, his behavior with the ghosts demonstrates that he is a character capable of changing from being insensitive to being truly concerned about others.

Scrooge demonstrates his ability to change during his travels with the Ghost of Christmas Present. During Stave One, Scrooge is called upon by two men who explain to Scrooge that they are collecting in order to buy food and warmth for the poor. Scrooge coldly states that the poor need to go to the poorhouses. When the men explain that many would rather die than go there Scrooge replies that they should do so and decrease the surplus population (p.8-10). Later when Scrooge is with the Ghost of Christmas Present he sees that the youngest child of his clerk, Bob Cratchit, is very sick and asks if Tiny Tim will live. The Ghost replies that Tim will not live to see another Christmas and then quickly adds Scrooge's words that if he is to die he should do so and decrease the surplus population. Scrooge is overwhelmed by the use of his own words and demonstrates his character is changed, and that he is truly concerned about others, by dropping his head and crying in grief (p.70-71). He demonstrates this new concern for others again at the end of the novel when he meets the two men on the street on Christmas morning and promises them a generous donation (p.118). Although Scrooge appears to be an insensitive man beyond all hope he proves that there was always good inside him.