**Grade 8 Writing Notes: Conflict in The Outsiders**

**1st Paragraph:**

* Begin by introducing the protagonist, the novel, and the writer.
* Then, give a brief plot summary (4 to 6 sentences)…..Focus on *who, what, when, where, why,* and *how.*
* Close with your *thesis statement* (a sentence that states the purpose of your essay).

E.g.

 Ponyboy Curtis is a teenage boy, who is known as a greaser; one of the lower classes in society, in The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton. The Greasers and the Socs are rival gangs, and they are also viewed in different ways by the outside world. Both of the groups get into fights with each other because of their differences; which is basically only their wealth. While it’s true that some of the Greasers are rough thugs, and some Socs are careless bullies, it depends mostly on the individual. As the Greasers and the Socs continue to fight, Pony begins to wonder if they’re really all that different from each other. This causes Pony to face conflict with the Socs, himself, and society in general.

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**2nd Paragraph:**

* Begin with a topic sentence that states clearly one type of conflict experienced by Ponyboy.
* Then, tell who is involved with this conflict (if it is an internal conflict, only Ponyboy is involved, if it is an external conflict, then you must name the external force involved, and if it is an interpersonal conflict, then you must name the other characters(s) involved).
* Describe thoroughly this conflict (Give the context, or background, of this problem. *What happens? When does it occur? Where is it situated? Why does it happen? How does it happen?*)
* Give one example from the novel (in your own words) that shows this conflict in ‘full swing’.
* Explain how this conflict is resolved (or, explain why there is no satisfactory resolution).
* Give one example from the novel (in your own words) that shows this resolution (or, lack of resolution).
* Close with a transition to the next conflict, but one in which you also make a personal connection to this conflict.

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**3rd Paragraph:**

* Begin with a topic sentence that states clearly another type of conflict experienced by Ponyboy. (If you used internal conflict in the second paragraph, then you must use an external conflict or an interpersonal conflict in the third paragraph, or vice versa—there is no particular order for the different conflicts—as long as you use one paragraph per conflict type).
* Then, tell who is involved with this conflict (if it is an internal conflict, only Ponyboy is involved, if it is an external conflict, then you must name the external force involved, and if it is an interpersonal conflict, then you must name the other characters(s) involved).
* Describe thoroughly this conflict (Give the context, or background, of this problem*. What happens? When does it occur? Where is it situated? Why does it happen? How does it happen?)*
* Give one example from the novel (in your own words) that shows this conflict in ‘full swing’.
* Explain how this conflict is resolved (or, explain why there is no satisfactory resolution).
* Give one example from the novel (in your own words) that shows this resolution (or, lack of resolution).
* Close with a transition to the next conflict, but one in which you also make a personal connection to this conflict.

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**4th Paragraph:**

* Begin with a topic sentence that states clearly another type of conflict experienced by Ponyboy. (This paragraph will be used for the third conflict type not yet discussed in the two previous paragraphs.).
* Then, tell who is involved with this conflict (if it is an internal conflict, only Ponyboy is involved, if it is an external conflict, then you must name the external force involved, and if it is an interpersonal conflict, then you must name the other characters(s) involved).
* Describe thoroughly this conflict (Give the context, or background, of this problem*. What happens? When does it occur? Where is it situated? Why does it happen? How does it happen?)*
* Give one example from the novel (in your own words) that shows this conflict in ‘full swing’.
* Explain how this conflict is resolved (or, explain why there is no satisfactory resolution).
* Give one example from the novel (in your own words) that shows this resolution (or, lack of resolution).
* Close with a transition to the conclusion, but one in which you also make a personal connection to this conflict.

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**5th Paragraph:**

* Begin by giving your opinion of Ponyboy Curtis and the problems experienced by him throughout the novel (one sentence).
* Summarize the reason(s) why he experienced so many problems/ conflicts (three to four sentences).
* State a lesson that Ponyboy (or you) has (have) learned from his conflicts (one sentence).
* Conclude with a clincher statement (a sentence in which you state your opinion of the novel).

E.g.

 Ponyboy faces the problems and conflicts he goes through as best as he can, despite how hard it can be sometimes. The root of Pony's problems and struggles come from his social status. He is poor and grouped as a thug, instead of just an everyday person. This causes him to have conflict with many parts of life; himself, other people, and society in general. Ponyboy is an interesting character, who learns from all the trouble he faces, causing him to seem in depth instead of just a plain or boring guy. The novel itself is meaningful and filled with suspense, which helps the reader really think about the events that happen from the protagonist's view.

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