**Year 11: Structuring Your Answer**

**A Description**



**The Hourglass Technique** *– See your description as a camera sees it on a film set. Begin with a wide, panoramic view of the whole.*

*In an orderly sequence, zoom in on details, and describe them using imaginative vocabulary and imagery. Change paragraph for each area of focus – but remember to LINK paragraphs! Somewhere, try to paragraph for EFFECT – with a flashback paragraph, or a single word / sentence paragraph for effect.*

*At the end, widen out to look at the whole again, this time in a more reflective, meaningful way than how you started.*

**A Story (or story opening)**



**Bang Start!** *– Begin by throwing your reader into the thick of the climax of the story – the cliff-hanger part. Don’t give away anything of character or event here – just the excitement of a situation in two or three sentences…*

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**Develop Your Exposition** *– In your SECOND paragraph, use the PAST PERFECT tense to go back to the beginning of your story. Introduce characters through SHOWING not TELLING, and give a sense of a setting that reflects the atmosphere of your story.*



**Lead into your PLOT** *– this is sometimes called the INCITEMENT – a key event that happens to the main character that gets the plot started. Most plots involve character X wanting to get from A to B. Then, a character or event (Y) gets in the way!*

**NB: *It may be that you’re asked to write a story OPENING – in which case, you can end there! However, if writing the whole story, you’ll need to return to your climactic opening point, this time describing differently and in more detail, and then move through to a satisfying RESOLUTION or ending!***



WHAT MAKES GOOD WRITING?

* Thoughtful structure and good paragraphing
* Showing NOT telling, using powerful imagery and the best words
* Varying sentence length and openings
* Punctuating clearly and well using the full range of punctuation with accuracy