3-X Strategy of

Paragraph Organization

1. Exposition (1 S)

The exposition introduces the point to be discussed in this paragraph, or paragraphs, to follow.

1. Example (1 – 2 S)

Your example should be facts and examples from the book. This is not the point to tell your *interpretation* of the facts, but to just lay the facts out. Summary is permitted here, but direct quotations and citations are much preferred because it is indisputable.

1. Explanation (at least 2 s, maybe more)

This is where you get to explain to the reader how your particular example means what you stated in the exposition, and in turn, your claim of the thesis. This is where your personal analysis is explained in a detailed fashion to the reader—you connect ALL the dots of what’s going on in that little brain of yours so the reader clearly sees your point of view.

Schaffer Model of

Paragraph Organization

1. Topic Sentence (1 s)

The topic sentence introduces the point to be discussed in this paragraph, or paragraphs, to follow.

1. Concrete Detail (1 S)

Concrete detail is examples from the book, preferably direct quotations with citations. Summary is permitted, but when one summarizes things, personal interpretation sometimes gets involved, and, as suggested by the name “concrete,” ceases to be hard evidence or facts.

1. Commentary (2 s)

Commentary is where you explain the interpretation of the concrete detail and explain how it connects to the topic sentence.

1. Repeat #’s 2 and 3 once

Toulmin’s Argument Model

Adapted for Paragraph organization

1. Claim (1 s)

A statement you are asking the reader to accept about your analysis of the text. Your paragraph will work to convince the reader to agree with this sentence.

1. Data (1 – 2 S)

This the “truth” upon which your claim is based. In other words, what lines or instances in the text led you to make your claim? Summary is permitted here, but direct quotations with citations are much preferred because it is indisputable.

1. Warrant (1 – 2+ S)

The warrant answers the question, “So what? Why should I (the reader) care about that claim and data?” This might be simple, using 1 -2 sentences, or complex, using 1 – 2 paragraphs. You should lead the reader smoothly and logically through your thought process.

1. Backing (1 – 2 S)

The backing gives additional support to the warrant by answering different questions such as, “How do you (the writer) know?” or “Is there another instance that helps explain your thought?” Your backing can be additional instances from the text, or just more logical explanation. Summarization of the text is more readily accepted in this step.