Writing the Final Composition for *Night* by Elie Wiesel

How do I do that??
PROMPT:

Write an essay in which you discuss three of the following thematic ideas presented within the memoir. For each topic, describe specific events that Elie witnesses or experiences that show this theme as it develops in the memoir. Within your analysis, explain what Elie Wiesel most likely hoped his readers would understand or realize regarding each topic.
PROMPT:

Write an essay in which you discuss **THREE** of the following **THEMATIC IDEAS** presented within the memoir. For each topic, describe **specific events** that Elie witnesses or experiences that show this theme as it develops in the memoir. Within your analysis, explain what Elie Wiesel most likely hoped his readers would understand or realize regarding each topic.
Writing a Strong Thesis
The thesis:

The thesis of a literary essay must:

- be clear and focused
- offer an interpretation of a subject
- set up an argument that the writer will develop in the body of the essay.
The thesis:
The thesis usually focuses on one of the following:

- the analysis of an element of fiction, like setting, tone, characterization, thematic development, structure, style, etc.

- how the work illustrates the characteristics of a certain genre.

- how the work illustrates a certain philosophy

- how the work is representative of a certain time period or real-life situations.
The thesis:

What is the FOCUS of this thesis?

In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee uses the development of Jem Finch to illustrate the difficulties of coming of age in a difficult world.
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~ the analysis of an element of fiction: characterization
The thesis:

What is the **ARGUMENT** of this thesis?

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While *The Merchant of Venice* has many elements of a Shakespearean comedy, it has elements of tragedy as well, making it a classic example of a tragicomedy.
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Shakespeare's use of pathetic fallacy underscores the Jacobean belief in the Divine Right of Kings.
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~ the analysis of an element of fiction: pathetic fallacy
The thesis: What is the ARGUMENT of this thesis?

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Shakespeare’s use of pathetic fallacy underscores the Jacobean belief in the Divine Right of Kings.
The thesis:

What is the FOCUS of this thesis?

Pride & Prejudice illustrates a belief in marrying for love, as well as money, suggesting that Austen, while a romantic, was still a woman of her time.
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What is the **FOCUS** of this thesis?

Shylock’s portrayal in *The Merchant of Venice* **defies** the Jewish stereotypes of the time.

~ how the work is representative of a certain time period or real-life situations.
What is the argument of this thesis?

Shylock's portrayal in *The Merchant of Venice* defies the Jewish stereotypes of the time.
The thesis:

What's the pattern?

Valgaardson compares rock climbing to parenting to illustrate the difficulties of letting go.

Austen contrasts silly characters with those who are more intelligent in order to critique the marriage conventions of her day.
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The thesis:

What's the pattern?

In *The Spaces between Stars*, the stars and the fish symbolizes Maya and her struggle to find her place in the world.

In *The Boat*, the sea acts as both a unifying and divisive force within the family.
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Element from story does what? for what purpose?
The thesis:

Valgaardson compares rock climbing to parenting to illustrate the difficulties of letting go.

In The Spaces between Stars, the fish symbolizes Maya and illustrates her struggle to find her place in the world.

While not the exactly same, each thesis follows this pattern:

NOUN + STRONG VERB + PURPOSE
The thesis:

Make sure your thesis follows this pattern:

NOUN + STRONG VERB + PURPOSE
**The thesis:**

**MOTIF TOPIC CHOICES:**

- Loss of Faith
- Brutality (Inhumanity)
- Selfishness
- Selflessness
- Power (Control)
- Humiliation
- Loss of Innocence
- Family (Love)
- Camaraderie (Good Will and Loyalty Between Friends)
- Human Resilience
- Remaining Silent
- Complacency (A Feeling of Security or Satisfaction, often While Unaware of Potential Danger)
Within his memoir *Night*, Elie Wiesel used the power of family and love to juxtapose the details of the Nazi brutality and loss of innocence he endured throughout his time imprisoned during the Holocaust.
Within his memoir *Night*, Elie Wiesel used the power of family and love to juxtapose the details of the Nazi brutality and loss of innocence he endured throughout his time imprisoned during the Holocaust.
Writing the Introduction: Look at how each of the following start generally, but in a way that links to the **thesis**.
Writing the Introduction:

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is set in a time when people were not as accepting as they are today. Against this backdrop of a world that was slow to change, Jem Finch comes of age. The reader sees him grow from a mischievous young boy to a thoughtful one who believes in doing what is right. It is not an easy journey for Jem however, as he must face harsh truths about his neighbors. Harper Lee uses his development, therefore, to illustrate the frustrations of coming of age in a difficult world.
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OPENING PARAGRAPH

Writing the Introduction:

Growing up is never easy. Individual must discover who they are and what they believe in, and sometimes these beliefs are contrary to those around them. This is no different for Jem Finch, a young boy who comes of age in Harper Lee’s novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. During the course of the novel Jem moves from innocence to awareness and must face the harsh truths about his neighbors. Harper Lee uses his development therefore, to illustrate the frustrations of coming of age in a difficult world.
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The novel is set in a time when the world was not as accepting as it is today. It was during the depression and in a part of the US that was slow to change. Most of the residents of Maycomb do not accept African Americans and there was a lot of discriminations. They also spread rumors about Boo Radley. Jem is fascinated with both the trial and with Boo. Lee uses the development of Jem Finch to illustrate the frustrations of coming of age in a difficult world.
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What novel?

The novel is set in a time when the world was not as accepting as it is today. It was during the depression and in a part of the US that was slow to change. Most of the residents of Maycomb do not accept the blacks and there was a lot of discrimination. They also spread rumors about Boo Radley. Jem is fascinated with both the trial and with Boo. Lee uses the development of Jem Finch to illustrate the frustrations of coming of age in a difficult world. **Thesis is good**

This lead is better; it’s more connected to thesis

Is this detail necessary? Would it be better in the body?

Who are Boo and Jem? No context
Developing your Thesis - The Body
The body of your essay serves one purpose: to develop the argument you presented in your thesis statement.

- Each paragraph must focus on **ONE** element of your argument. This element will take the form of a **TOPIC SENTENCE** that focuses the paragraph.

- The paragraphs in the body of the essay must be organized in a logical way that allows the reader to follow your argument.

- Use **TRANSITIONS** between paragraphs so your ideas flow from one to another.
The Body:

Your essay is like a ladder. The sides of the ladder, like the thesis, hold the essay together; the rungs, or the topic sentences, are steps the reader needs to take in order to "get to the top" and to see the whole picture.
The Body:

The body of each paragraph needs to develop the topic sentence. Every detail, point, quotation, etc. in the paragraph must focus on developing the topic sentence. Present these in logical order.
The Body:

Each paragraph must have a concluding sentence that summarizes or restates the main idea of your paragraph.
Before you begin to write, it is so important that YOU understand what it is you are trying to do.
State your thesis to your partner and then, without referring to the text or your notes, explain how you will prove your thesis. Be brief and focused.
Was that difficult? Did you struggle to explain?

If you answered “yes”, you aren’t ready to write. You need to do some more thinking.
The Body:

Write an outline for your essay.
Remember the ladder analogy: your topic sentences need to lead the reader step-by-step to your conclusion.

An outline is never set in stone, so don't worry about the wording. It's just a guide to get you focused and started.
The Body:

IDEA DEVELOPMENT

One big problem with student essays, is that ideas are often not fully developed. Often this happens when the writer assumes the reader knows what s/he is talking about. You need to find a balance between giving enough detail without giving too much.
The Body:

IDEA DEVELOPMENT TIP

You have given enough detail if someone who has not read the text can follow your argument.
The Body:

IDEA DEVELOPMENT

Read the example provided and indicate areas where the writer could use more detail. Look for places that leave you asking questions.
Early in the novel Jem's interactions with others illustrate that while he is a good boy, he doesn't really think much about others. For example, he likes to play the Radley game but Atticus points out that it's not a good idea. He sees Boo as a "malevolent phantom" and never considers that he might be a real person (9). This can be clearly seen in the turtle incident. He is also sometimes mean to Scout and Dill. He is, however, just a normal young boy, with glimmers of the more thoughtful one he will become later.

Give an example of how he is a good boy
Who's Atticus?
What's the turtle incident?
An example?
Needs more analysis. A lot of plot summary without indicating why/how the examples are significant.
Shakespeare illustrates the Jacobean belief in the Divine Right of Kings with his description of the events on the night of Duncan’s murder. For example, as she awaits her husband’s return, Lady Macbeth hears strange sounds. The People of Shakespeare’s time thought these things were omens. Also, Lennox says that the night was “unruly”. This, as well as the earthquake that occurred, further highlights the idea that Macbeth is upsetting all that is normal and right, by murdering the rightful king.

Return from where? What kind of sounds does she hear?

Why? In what way was it “unruly”?

Needs more analysis. A lot of plot summary without indicating why/how the examples are significant.
### Introduction

3-5 sentences: Grabber, Transitional Sentence, Strong Thesis

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### Main Topic Sentence 1

- Main Topic Sentence
- Evidence 1 (properly cited)
- Explanation 1

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### Main Topic Sentence 2

- Main Topic Sentence
- Evidence 2 (properly cited)
- Explanation 2

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### Main Topic Sentence 3

- Main Topic Sentence
- Evidence 3 (properly cited)
- Explanation 3

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### Conclusion

3-5 sentences: Restate (reword) Thesis, Transitional Sentence, Strong Ending
## Tying Your Ideas Together: TRANSITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transitions used to acknowledge another viewpoint:</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some may argue that...</td>
<td>Some people may argue that...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some may say that...</td>
<td>Some people may say that...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You may think...</td>
<td>Some people think...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An opposing viewpoint is...</td>
<td>A down side to this is...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readers could argue that...</td>
<td>One could argue that...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transitions used to make counter arguments:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is not true for...</td>
<td>This is not true because...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This may be true, but...</td>
<td>This may be true; however,...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevertheless,...</td>
<td>Still,...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the contrary,...</td>
<td>On the other hand,...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yet,...</td>
<td>However,...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Even so, ...</td>
<td>But,...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transitions used to support your reasons/add details:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For instance,...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In addition,...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Besides,...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likewise,...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transitions used to emphasize, conclude, and/or summarize:

Emphasize:
- Indeed,...
- Therefore,...
- For this reason,...
- Consequently,...
- Again,...
- As a result,...

Conclude or summarize:
- Truly,...
- In short,...
- In fact,...
- Thus,...
- With this in mind,...
- All in all,...
At the beginning of your conclusion, you must restate your thesis. This DOES NOT mean that you simply rewrite the same words. Instead, you need to remind your reader of the thesis in new words.
Below are two thesis statements. Each one has two sentences that try to restate the thesis. Decide which does a better job. Remember, the better choice repeats the same ideas as the thesis, but not too many of the same words.
Writing the Conclusion:

1. Thesis: *Animal Farm* is a fable that serves as a scathing condemnation of not only those who thirst for power, but also those who allow them to seize it.

   Restatement 1: ____ *Animal Farm*, then, is a story that is critical of not only those who take power, but also those who allow them to do so.

   Restatement 2: ____ *Animal Farm*, then, serves as a cautionary tale: if we want good leaders, we must be alert and not allow those who lust for power to take advantage of those they rule.
Writing the Conclusion:

I. Thesis: *Animal Farm* is a fable that serves as a scathing condemnation of not only those who thirst for power, but also those who allow them to seize it.

Restatement 1: ____ *Animal Farm*, then, is a story that is critical of not only those who take power, but also those who allow them to do so.

Restatement 2: ____ *Animal Farm*, then, serves as a cautionary tale: if we want good leaders, we must be alert and not allow those who lust for power to take advantage of those they rule.
2. Thesis: *Pride & Prejudice* illustrates a belief in marrying for love, as well as money, suggesting that Austen, while a romantic, was still a woman of her time.

Restatement 1: ____ Although Austen suggests that love is crucial component of marriage, she is a realist and does not ignore the financial realities that women of her time faced.

Restatement 2: ____ Therefore, Austen, a woman of her time, illustrates a belief in marrying for love, as well as money.
Writing the Conclusion:

2. Thesis: *Pride & Prejudice* illustrates a belief in marrying for love, as well as money, suggesting that Austen, while a romantic, was still a woman of her time.

Restatement 1: ____  Although Austen suggests that love is crucial component of marriage, she is a realist and does not ignore the financial realities that women of her time faced.

Restatement 2: ____  Therefore, Austen, a woman of her time, illustrates a belief in marrying for love, as well as money.
Writing the Conclusion

I’ve restated my thesis...now what?

• Don’t include any new points
• Don’t restate all of your points
• Answer “so what?” Why is your argument important?

~ or ~

• Give your readers something to think about. Challenge them with an idea or questions that stem from your thesis.
• Have it “match” your intro.
Intro: *To Kill a Mockingbird* is set in a time when people were not as accepting as they are today. Against this backdrop of a world that was slow to change, Jem Finch comes of age. The reader sees him grow from a mischievous young boy to a thoughtful one who believes in doing what is right. It is not an easy journey for Jem, however, as he must face harsh truths about his neighbors. Harper Lee uses his development, therefore, to illustrate the frustrations of coming of age in a difficult world.

Conclusion: Jem changes and grows throughout the novel, but in doing so he must come to terms with a new reality. Through several interactions and events, he learns that his world is not a safe cocoon, populated with good people who want justice for all. This shakes him to the core; however, with the skills and lessons he has learned from Atticus, he is armed with a set of values that will allow him to overcome the hardships of the world and work to make it a better place, just as his father before him.