

Please Stop Laughing at Me... and Pay it Forward
Final Writing Assignment

Our focus for the past few months has been on bullying and how we treat other people. We've played some games, read some articles, read a book and watched a movie dealing with these issues. Your assignment is to put together all you have learned into one coherent paper.

Jodee Blanco (*Please Stop Laughing at Me...*) and Trevor McKinney (*Pay it Forward*) both represent the idea of helping not only others, but also their community and the world in which we live. You will explain how these two individuals affected others, their community and their world. You will also research another person who you think has had a positive influence on change in others, their community and the world (MLK, Rosa Parks, Mother Teresa, Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandela, etc...). If you need a starting point, here is a website for you to use for your research:

<http://www.biographyonline.net/people/people-who-made-a-difference.html>

This will be a formal, five paragraph essay in MLA format. Here's how it will lay out...

1st paragraph – Introduction. You will give background information (book, movie titles, etc.). You should start with a general, overall idea that links your three people together. As you work through this paragraph, get more specific and end with your THESIS STATEMENT. Your THESIS STATEMENT is one sentence that explains what your paper will be about. It should include all three names, as well as what ties them together. Ex - Jodee Blanco, Trevor McKinney and Mother Theresa all had a positive effect on other people, their communities and their world.

2nd paragraph – Jodee. This paragraph should focus on Jodee Blanco. It should include and EXPLAIN examples of how she has positively affected **other people**, *her community* and her world.

3rd paragraph – Trevor. This paragraph should focus on Trevor McKinney. It should include and EXPLAIN examples of how he has positively affected **other people**, *his community* and his world.

4th paragraph – the person you research. This paragraph should include and EXPLAIN examples of how he/she has positively affected **other people**, *his/her community* and his/her world. You will have to research this information, use citations in your paper, and include a Works Cited page (don't worry, we will go over this together and I can help you with this).

5th paragraph – Conclusion. This paragraph should start with a general statement that can help tie your three people together. You should then write ONE summary sentence of EACH of your body paragraphs (for a total of three summary sentences). Then, you need to end with a few sentences that tie all your ideas together and answer the question "so what?" Think about questions such as:

- ◆ Why were these three people important and what impact do they have today?
- ◆ What do these people teach us about how we treat others?
- ◆ What is their message?
- ◆ What is the lesson we are supposed to learn?

How to set up your paper: (SEE THE SAMPLE MLA FORMAT PAPER THAT I GAVE YOU AS AN EXAMPLE!!!)

- Your name, my name, class and date (in that order) should be in the upper left-hand corner of the page
- DOUBLE SPACE EVERYTHING! To do this, hold down the control button (CTRL in bottom left of keyboard) and press A. This will highlight everything on your paper. At the top of the screen, look for the arrows that are going up and down. Click on the link and go to "Double." This will double space your entire paper.

- For the title, move the cursor to the center of the paper. Use the link that is 3 places to the left of the link you just clicked to double space your paper. Even if you don't know what your title is going to be yet, please type Title there so that you remember to change it later.
- Title of your paper should ***not*** be underlined, *italicized*, **bolded** or have "quotation marks"
 - Should not be "PSLAM and Pay it Forward Comparison Paper"!!! Should be about ideas that help tie paper together – helping others, making the world a better place, etc
 - Title should also be correctly capitalized – all "big" words but no articles (a, an, the, etc., unless it is the first word of the title)
- You need a header with the page number at the top of the page. To do this, go to the Insert tab at the top of the screen. Then, choose the option that says Page Number. Choose the first option that has a number 1 and a number 2 in the upper right corners. Move the cursor BEFORE the page number, type your LAST NAME and press the space bar once. You should now have a header at the top and the page numbers will change as you type more pages. It should look like the Kirk 2 at the top of this page.

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

- Tab indent all paragraphs
- Intro paragraph
 - Should start with general statement and then narrow down to thesis
 - Thesis should be last sentence of intro paragraph
 - Movie and book titles should be italicized or underlined. NOT BOTH OR QUOTES

BODY PARAGRAPH #1 – PLEASE STOP LAUGHING AT ME

- The 2nd paragraph should address 3 KEY concepts: **How did each person affect**
 - **OTHER PEOPLE? (star)**
 - **THEIR COMMUNITY? (heart)**

o **THEIR WORLD? (smiley face)**

BODY PARAGRAPH #2 – *PAY IT FORWARD*

- o The 3rd paragraph should address 3 KEY concepts: **How did each person affect**
 - o **OTHER PEOPLE? (star)**
 - o **THEIR COMMUNITY? (heart)**
 - o **THEIR WORLD? (smiley face)**
-

BODY PARAGRAPH #3 – PERSON YOU CHOSE

- o The 4th paragraph should address 3 KEY concepts: **How did each person affect**
 - o **OTHER PEOPLE? (star)**
 - o **THEIR COMMUNITY? (heart)**
 - o **THEIR WORLD? (smiley face)**
-

CONCLUSION

- o Use the graphic organizer to help you arrange your information
 - o Make sure you have at least one summary sentence for EACH of your body paragraphs
 - o Make sure you end with a big idea – a “So What?” thought
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OTHER FORMATTING/EXTRA INFORMATION

- ◆ There should be **NO EXTRA spaces** between paragraphs
- ◆ None of the paper should be **bold** type
- ◆ The **spell check** on the computer should be used
- ◆ The paper should be in **12 pt. font; Times New Roman or Arial** font. ALL OF IT
- ◆ All **names** of people from the book and movie should be spelled correctly and include first AND last names (for those whose last names we know)
- ◆ Movie and book titles are *italicized* OR underlined
- ◆ You may NOT use the **pronoun “I”** anywhere in your paper. So, don’t use sentences such as “I think that...”
- ◆ To find movie quotes, please see www.imdb.com.
 - o Search for the movie title
 - o Scroll down to find the link to “Quotes”
 - o Search through the quotes to find one that is appropriate for your paragraph
- ◆ **Works Cited** should be on separate paper, attached behind essay
 - o You can print from NoodleTools - we will work on this part together!

Introductory Paragraph

Use the graphic organizer below to fill in the details for your first paragraph.

Hook – get reader’s attention – tell a story, use statistics, use a quote, etc.

General information about topic(s)

Introduce PSLAM (full title and author)

Introduce movie (title and actor(s))

Introduce person you chose

Thesis statement

Body Paragraph 1 – *Please Stop Laughing at Me*

Use the boxes to organize your information for your paragraph. You need to find at least ONE quote to support your ideas in this paragraph.

★ Person ★ Jodee had positive impact on	What happened? Describe the event.	What was the result of the event? Why did this have a positive impact?
1		
2		
3		
Page #	ONE Direct quote from text	How does quote show Jodee's impact on person/community/world?

♥Communities♥ Jodee had positive impact on	What happened? Describe the event.	What was the result of the event? Why did this have a positive impact?
1		
2		
•World• Jodee had positive impact on	What happened? Describe the event.	What was the result of the event? Why did this have a positive impact?
1		

Body Paragraph 2 – *Pay it Forward*

Use the boxes to organize your information for your paragraph. You need to find at least ONE quote to support your ideas in this paragraph.

★ Person ★ Trevor had positive impact on	What happened? Describe the event.	What was the result of the event? Why did this have a positive impact?
1		
2		
3		
Page #	ONE Direct quote from text	How does quote show Trevor's impact on person/community/world?

♥Communities♥ Trevor had positive impact on	What happened? Describe the event.	What was the result of the event? Why did this have a positive impact?
1		
2		
•World• Trevor had positive impact on	What happened? Describe the event.	What was the result of the event? Why did this have a positive impact?
1		

Body Paragraph 3 – Person You Chose

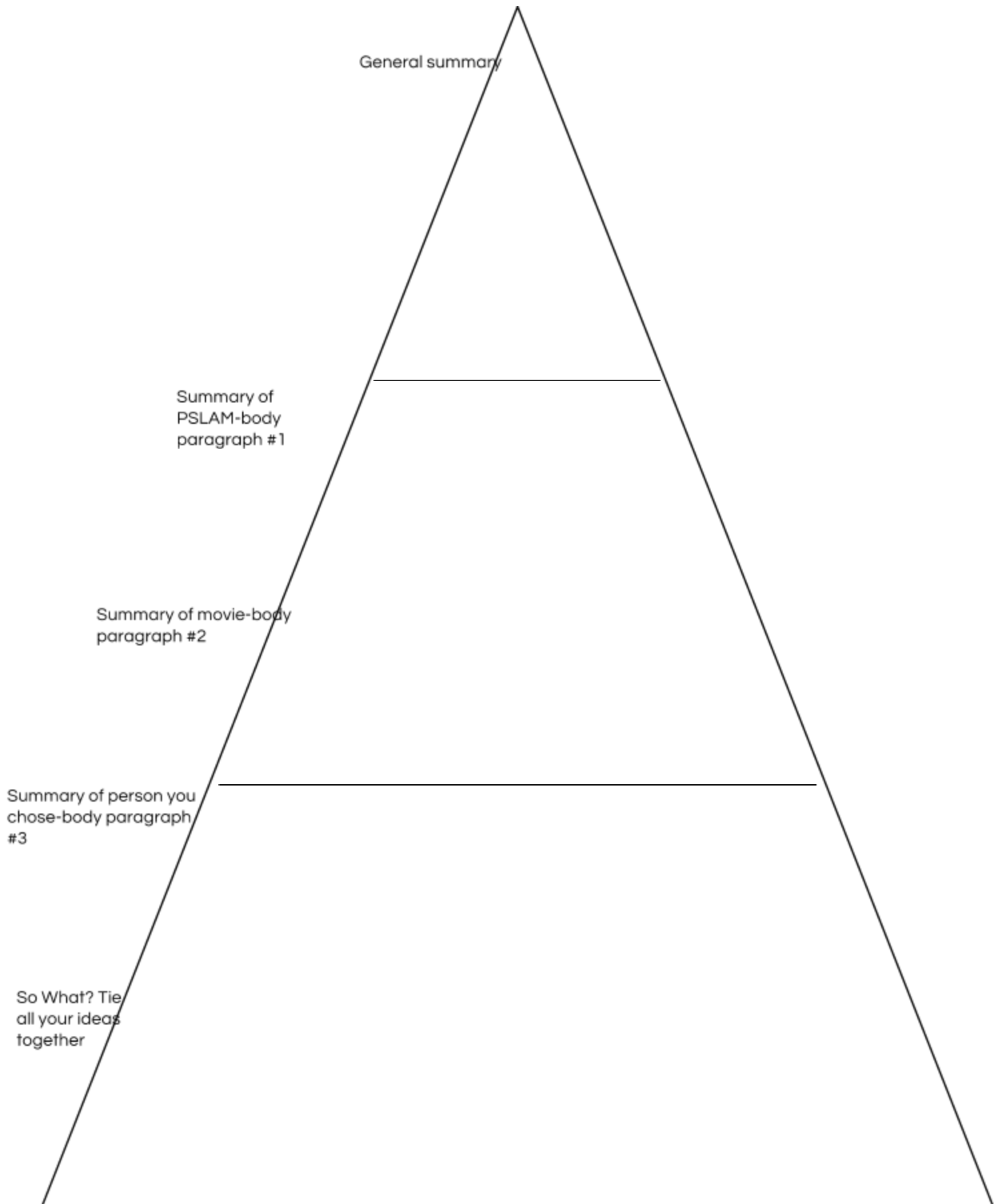
Use the boxes to organize your information for your paragraph. You need to find at least ONE quote to support your ideas in this paragraph.

☆Person☆ that Person You Chose had positive impact on	What happened? Describe the event.	What was the result of the event? Why did this have a positive impact?
1		
2		
3		
Page #	ONE Direct quote from text	How does quote show the person you chose's impact on person/community/world?

♥Communities♥ that Person You Chose had positive impact on	What happened? Describe the event.	What was the result of the event? Why did this have a positive impact?
1		
2		
•World• that Person You Chose had positive impact on	What happened? Describe the event.	What was the result of the event? Why did this have a positive impact?
1		

Conclusion Paragraph

Use the graphic organizer below to fill in the details for your first paragraph.



Please Stop Laughing at Me and Pay it Forward Essay Rubric

Student: _____

_____/100

	A Excellent	B Good Job	C Average	D/F Weak	
Intro Para/thesis	Solid attention grabber. Mentions all topics/people. Smooth transition. Well structured thesis statement.	Attention grabber could be better, weak transition, thesis is fairly clear. General references to people/topics.	Attempt at getting attention, abrupt transition, unclear topics/people, or a hint of a weakly worded thesis.	No attempt at getting attention, and thesis is weak or not there.	Automatic Deductions No title No works cited page Multiple errors in MLA format Use of first or second person Quotations not introduced No parenthetical citations Less than five paragraphs Late paper Plagiarism (No credit for assignment)
Body Para. 1 Book	Clear topic sentence. Development of influence on 3 people, 2 communities and 1 world contains specific examples. Quote for support used and formatted correctly.	Topic sentence is there. Development of influence on 3 people, 2 communities and 1 world contains general examples. Quote for support used and formatted correctly.	Weak topic sentence. Missing no more than one example for 3 people, 2 communities or 1 world. Quote for support is not used or formatted correctly.	No topic sentence. Missing several examples for 3 people, 2 communities, or 1 world. Quote is missing or misused.	
Body Para. 2 Movie	Clear topic sentence. Development of influence on 3 people, 2 communities and 1 world contains specific examples. Quote for support used and formatted correctly.	Topic sentence is there. Development of influence on 3 people, 2 communities and 1 world contains general examples. Quote for support used and formatted correctly.	Weak topic sentence. Missing no more than one example for 3 people, 2 communities or 1 world. Quote for support is not used or formatted correctly.	No topic sentence. Missing several examples for 3 people, 2 communities, or 1 world. Quote is missing or misused.	Areas for Improvement: Introduction Selection of Evidence Critical Analysis Development of Ideas Conclusion Spelling Grammar Sentence Structure Voice Organization and Flow Incorporating Quotes Parenthetical Citations MLA format Works Cited Format
Body Para. 3 Person you chose	Clear topic sentence. Development of influence on 3 people, 2 communities and 1 world contains specific examples. Quote for support used and formatted correctly.	Topic sentence is there. Development of influence on 3 people, 2 communities and 1 world contains general examples. Quote for support used and formatted correctly.	Weak topic sentence. Missing no more than one example for 3 people, 2 communities or 1 world. Quote for support is not used or formatted correctly.	No topic sentence. Missing several examples for 3 people, 2 communities, or 1 world. Quote is missing or misused.	
Conclusion	Summarizes body paragraphs and thesis. Effectively answers "so what"?	Summarizes some body paragraphs, states thesis exactly. "So what" is implied, but not stated.	Summarizes only 1 body paragraph, struggles with thesis. No closing idea (so what).	Does not summarize body paragraphs, restate thesis, nor contain closing idea (so what).	
MLA Format (Works Cited and In-text Citations)	No errors.	One error.	Two errors.	Three errors or more.	
Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation	No errors.	Only minor errors.	Quite a few errors - some might hinder understanding.	Significant errors that interfere with understanding.	