

NOVA Online CST 100 General Instructions for Discussions

When the instructions state to use paragraph(s), be sure to write in the following 6-7 sentence paragraph approach for each paragraph:

The 6-7 sentence paragraph approach

(The paragraph should Identify-Define-Relate according to the following formula):

- **Sentence 1:** Identify/Define the term or topic of the paragraph (and cite the definition!).
- **Sentences 2-5:** Relate the definition to the topic of the paragraph. When appropriate, provide quotes and action descriptions to support your analysis!
- **Sentence(s) 6/7:** Provide an Internal Summary/Transition – Restate the topic and highlight the most compelling piece of evidence in the paragraph/Provide a transition statement to the next main idea.

EXAMPLE:

What did the speaker do or say to gain the attention of the audience?

According to Hager and Scheiber (1997), “an attention-getter is the first thing in the opening of a presentation. It must be thought out to grab the audience's attention as soon as the presentation starts or, at least, from as early on as possible” (p. 70). In the beginning of his speech, Dalton Sherman stated “I believe in me, do you believe in me? Do you believe that I can stand, up here, fearless, and talk to over 20,000 of you...?” Sherman got the audience involved right away with his opening and let them know that he believed in himself as a person and a speaker with a simple statement: “...do you believe in me?” The audience was immediately taken with Sherman and started clapping joyously. With Sherman’s strong attention getter he put his confidence on display, and combined with his effective communication, he set himself up to achieve his ambitions as a speaker.