

The topic sentence must reveal whether or not the character being analyzed is dynamic or static; however, the terms "dynamic" and "static" should **never** be used. Organization of the paragraph will be determined by whether or not the character is dynamic or static.

### **Dynamic Character Paragraph:**

A dynamic character paragraph is episodic, meaning you must prove that the character changes into something else. This can be done by using either traits or values. A trait is an internal quality (adjective), and a value is an external pursuit (noun). If using traits, the traits must be related. Typically, a character who changes experiences a growth; hence, it is a positive change. A strong paper will be beyond merely saying that the character changes. A strong paper will discuss how the changes **affect** the character. The paragraph will be organized as follows:

Major #1 - Initial characteristic

Major #2 - Transforming experience

Major #3 - Transformed characteristic

### **Static Character Paragraph:**

In a static character paragraph, you must pick one trait that defines your character. Again, you need to discuss how that trait affects the character. Typically, a static character possesses one trait that is so prevalent it is either a weakness leading to a downfall or it is strength enabling the character to overcome adversity. A static character paragraph should be organized analytically by breaking it up into two or three areas. Each area is a major. Here are examples with the trait "courage":

1. Courage in the home and in the workplace (2 major-paragraph)
  2. Internal and external courage (2 major-paragraph)
  3. Physical, psychological, and spiritual/emotional courage (3 major-paragraph)
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Some sample static character paragraph topic sentences are:

To quest for truth is Oedipus's primary motivation.

To define courage is to define Atticus Finch