**Making Connections - an alternative structure**

**Choose your topic** eg **Dystopian literature – typical aspects of this genre**

**Or Aspects of the settings in dystopian literature**

**OR The hero in dystopian literature: characteristics and role**

**OR The political or social messages in dystopian literature**

**OR The question of human survival as a recurring theme in dystopian literature.**

Remember that this essay is all about recognising some things that all your texts have in common or in what ways they differ from each other while dealing with a similar topic.

If you take your topic and break it down into three or four key aspects, these aspects can be discussed in each paragraph and you can refer to each text in each paragraph. This allows you to ensure you are comparing properly.

If I took each of the above topics, I could break them down but for the purpose of this note I will use each of the topics above as if they were each a paragraph in an essay.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Structure** | **Some suggested sentence starters – nothing has to follow the phrasing suggested. Be original** |
| **My introduction** will   1. State the topic and 2. explain, clearly but briefly what your point of view in the essay will be. 3. Name the texts used ( title and author/director) | EG In the genre of dystopia all these texts are recognisable because they have in common certain elements. Within these elements there may be some tweaking of the expected conventions but mostly they follow a patter. To show this, I will discuss four texts : The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, xx by yy, zz by jj and kk by mm. |
| Paragraph 1 will make a statement  EG **All dystopian texts have certain similar types of settings**. (Explain explain explain. )  Then refer to each text in turn. | EG in **The Hunger Games** despite having three key settings that are very different has certain key elements of dystopian settings. For eg…(now give some evidence and detail)…………………………………………………Discuss what the setting does, why it is important, how it is typical of dystopias, comment. **The short story**……(name)……is different as there is ……Give an explanation and detail and evidence of how it is different)……………………………………………..… ( At this point you might add a thoughtful comment on this) ………………………………………………………………Another aspect of difference is way in which the setting is being used in both these texts……… ……………….(explain)……… The **poem/film/other novel ( give Name)** is very similar to the short story. Here……………(explain – give details and comment)…………………………. In **the film/ other text** we can see in visual terms what is described in the novel. Explain………………etc as before |
| Paragraph 2 will focus on a second aspect or point of your essay :  - for example you may discuss the idea of **government structures in dystopian worlds**. You would again refer to all four texts. Start with the point as your topic sentence. | In each text we are presented with a view of the controlling body or government of these worlds. The common denominator seems to be……………  In TEXT 1 for eg ……………………………………………(Explain, comment , give evidence. A similar aspect is shown in TEXT 2 where……………. Some differences and similarities are obvious in TEXT 3 ……………  In Text 4 however………………………… |
| Paragraph 3 will makes a completely different point  Eg **The heroes of these worlds are all**………. | The hero of Text 1 is …………  And this is similar to the hero in TEXT 2 and TEXT 3 in the way that……………. Even TEXT 4 shows ………………..  Discuss fully the ideas you are presenting, use detail and evidence to make your point convincing and **always** **comment**, **reflect**, link back to your overarching idea/theme of your essay. |
| Paragraph 4 - will focus on a fourth point  Eg **The authorial or directorial intention is to warn society of the dangers of**…….. | Again – as before, discuss each text in terms of this point. |
| **Conclusion**  Summarise your comments on the connections.  Reflect on why or value of or relevance of message to the world/ to you. The last paragraph should really indicate even more fully than before what your thinking is, what your ideas and reflections are on the topic. | Refer to all four texts briefly.  In conclusion………… (make a comment that sums up and links back to your original overarching topic. ) It seems that…………  Another point to consider……………………… What we learn from this is………… |

Remember

**EXPLAIN your ideas**

**SUPPORT your ideas with EVIDENCE**

**COMMENT**

**REFLECT  
  
EVALUATE** what you are thinking about these facts above and state how they link to the main topic.

ESCFE - no neat abbreviations here like PEE or SEXY - only ESCFE = like nescafe with missing ingredients ( = joke ☺)