

week 7 – Introduction Writing & Essay Planning Worksheet

Text: *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

Focus: Writing an introduction that becomes your essay plan

Overview

In this worksheet, you will:

1. Write 5 sentences that form your introduction
2. Use those sentences to plan your body paragraphs

The key idea: Your introduction IS your essay plan. Each sentence seeds a body paragraph.

Verb Strength Guide

When writing analytical sentences, your verb choice matters. Use this guide to choose strong verbs.

Strength	Verbs	Use for...
Strong (aim for these)	creates, reveals, demonstrates, challenges, undermines, exposes, critiques, disrupts, subverts, constructs	Showing what a technique DOES to meaning or readers
Medium (acceptable)	shows, indicates, suggests, implies, reflects, illustrates, represents, conveys, establishes, develops, presents, portrays, allows, enables, hints, prepares, builds	Describing patterns and effects
Weak (avoid)	is, are, was, were, has, uses, employs, does, makes, gets, becomes, seems, appears	Just describing or summarising

Example:

- ✗ Weak: "Lowry **uses** foreshadowing in Chapter 1"
- ✓ Medium: "Foreshadowing **suggests** hidden danger"
- ✓ Strong: "Foreshadowing **creates** unease about the community"

Activity 1: Plot Summary Sentence

Task: Compress the story into one sentence with three parts.

Grammar Rule

Subject-Verb Agreement: Subjects and verbs must match. Ignore words between them.

✓ "Jonas... discovers" (singular)

□ "Jonas... discover"

Fill Your Slots

Slot	Question	Your Answer
A	Who is the protagonist?	Jonas
B	What is their central conflict?	
C	What outcome does this lead to?	

Template

The story follows... emerges as a narrative moral centre,

"The story follows [A], who [B], leading to [C]."

The story follows Jonas who wants to end sameness and let others experience memories, leading to Jonas escaping with baby brother Gabriel trying to find a new place to come home.

Write Your Sentence
decides the community's strict rules and prison-like environment, leading him to leave the community with his baby brother.

getting released means getting killed, leading to Jonas escaping with his brother.

The plot focuses on...

Grammar Check exposes the dark truth behind the seemingly perfect surface...

grapples with moral consequences... confronts the oppressive structures...

challenges the rest of the community,

- I underlined my subject(s) and circled my verb(s)

- Each subject-verb pair matches (singular with singular, plural with plural)

cause-effect.

Activity 2: Narrative Voice Sentence

Task: Name the voice type and what it lets readers experience.

Grammar Rule

Avoiding Run-Ons: Two complete ideas need proper connection.

- ✗ "Third-person limited narration shows Jonas's thoughts, readers experience his confusion" (comma splice)
- ✓ "Third-person limited narration shows Jonas's thoughts, so readers experience his confusion"

Fill Your Slots

Slot	Question	Your Answer
A	What type of narration? Third-person limited First-person Omniscient	
B	What does it let readers do? discover feel experience understand	
C	Alongside which character?	

Template

"[A] narration allows readers to [B] alongside [C]."

, channeling the story through, while sharpening how we interpret the society's
Write Your Sentence allows the readers to feel what Jonas feels during memory transition,
deepens the readers experience... make the readers feel more deep into
revealing how Jonas thinks about the society with his inside thoughts.
— grants the power... interpret the... making them dive deeper into the story.
— allows readers to experience, so that...
— reveals... creating, as if. allows readers to see his transformation clearly.

Grammar Check

- This is ONE complete sentence (not two sentences joined incorrectly)
- If I used a comma, there is a connecting word after it (and, but, so)

Activity 3: Literary Devices Sentence

Task: Name 1-2 devices and their combined effect.

Grammar Rule

Compound Subjects: "Device AND device" = plural subject = plural verb

- ✗ "Foreshadowing and imagery creates suspense"
- ✓ "Foreshadowing and imagery create suspense"

Fill Your Slots

Slot	Question	Your Answer
A	Device 1 (from your Week 1-4 work)	
B	Device 2 (from your Week 1-4 work)	
C	Combined effect (use a strong verb) create build reveal establish develop	

Strong verb options for Slot C: create suspense / build tension / reveal character / establish unease / develop mystery

Template

"The author uses [A] and [B] to [C]."

Uses foreshadowing and indirect characterisation, to slowly reveal...
builds up our understanding of Jonas

Write Your Sentence
Symbolism and foreshadowing orchestrates tension, subtly intimating...
embodies his escalating isolation.

foreshadowing and symbolism to build tension around Jonas's conflict
with the community

Grammar Check

- My compound subject ("___ and ___") has a plural verb

Activity 4: Thesis Sentence

Task: Combine voice, devices, and effect into one complex sentence that summarises your argument.

This is the hardest sentence. You'll build it in steps.

Grammar Rule

Subordination: Combine choppy sentences using "which" clauses and subordinating words (because, while, through, when, although).

Choppy: "Lowry uses third-person limited narration. It reveals Jonas's awakening. Foreshadowing builds suspense."

Combined: "Lowry uses third-person limited narration to reveal Jonas's awakening, with foreshadowing building suspense about his community."

Step 1: Gather Your Elements

Look back at your sentences from Activities 1-3. Pull out the key elements:

Element	From Your Previous Sentences
Voice (from Activity 2)	Jonas - readers experience feelings, thoughts, etc.
Device 1 (from Activity 3)	plot/structure - dark truth, getting released, end sameness community's strict rules, oppressive structure
Device 2 (from Activity 3)	devices - conflict, tension, suspense, motivation, desire,
Overall effect	
What do these create together?	

Step 2: Write as Choppy Sentences First

1. Lowry uses _____ narration to _____.
2. _____ and _____ (devices) build _____ (effect).
3. This reveals _____ about the community / Jonas.

Step 3: Combine Into One Thesis

Now combine your choppy sentences into ONE thesis sentence.

Use these connecting tools:

- "with" → connects voice to devices ("narration... with foreshadowing building...")
- "which" → adds information about what came before
- "to reveal" → shows the purpose/meaning

Template to help:

"Lowry uses [voice] to [what it reveals], with [device 1] and [device 2] [building/creating] [effect] about [what]."

Write Your Thesis

to reveal Jonas' character
, helping to build up jonas's character identity as logical and observant,
eventually helping
jonas to go through a big transformation
- from wanting to be the same to wanting to end sameness.
- wanting to experience real feelings of love.

Grammar Check

- I used at least ONE subordinating word or "which" clause
- All my subjects and verbs agree
- I have no run-ons or comma splices (check every comma!)

deepen readers experience jonas's memory transmission
understanding of jonas as a careful and thoughtful
reveals how different and isolated he is from the community, except for gabriel.
experience the thoughts and feelings of Jonas,
foreshadowing and symbolism to build tension
reveals the dark truth about the community and the meaning of death.
In the book, the giver, understand the concept the characters
the separation from the community
dark secret is revealed, which creates a tension in the story.

Activity 5: Roadmap Sentence

Task: Reflect on what your thesis reveals about the text's meaning.

Grammar Rule

"That" Clauses: Connect smoothly with no comma before "that."

✗ "This creates suspense, that reveals the theme"

✓ "This creates suspense that reveals the theme"

Fill Your Slots

Slot	Question	Your Answer
A	What reading experience does this create? suspense unease discovery empathy	
B	What theme or meaning does this reveal?	

Template

"This creates [A] that [B]."

Write Your Sentence

Grammar Check

- I have NOT put a comma before "that"
- My sentence flows smoothly from [A] into "that [B]"

Assemble Your Introduction

Now reorder your sentences into introduction structure and write them out as a full paragraph.

Order:

1. Thesis (Activity 4)
2. Plot Summary (Activity 1)
3. Narrative Voice (Activity 2)
4. Literary Devices (Activity 3)
5. Roadmap (Activity 5)

Your Complete Introduction

Final Grammar Check

- Read your introduction aloud—does it flow?
- Check every subject-verb pair
- Check every comma (is there a connecting word, or should it be a full stop?)

MODEL INTRODUCTION

Before moving to Stage 2, here is what a complete introduction looks like:

Thesis: Lowry uses third-person limited narration to reveal Jonas's awakening, with foreshadowing and indirect characterisation building suspense about his community's hidden darkness.

Plot Summary: The story follows Jonas, a boy living in a seemingly perfect community, who discovers disturbing truths about his society's past, leading to his decision to escape with a baby named Gabriel.

Narrative Voice: Third-person limited narration allows readers to discover the community's hidden secrets alongside Jonas.

Literary Devices: Lowry uses foreshadowing and indirect characterisation to build suspense and reveal Jonas's difference from others in his community.

Roadmap: This creates a growing sense of unease that reveals how conformity and control suppress individual awareness.

Full Introduction (Combined):

Lowry uses third-person limited narration to reveal Jonas's awakening, with foreshadowing and indirect characterisation building suspense about his community's hidden darkness. The story follows Jonas, a boy living in a seemingly perfect community, who discovers disturbing truths about his society's past, leading to his decision to escape with a baby named Gabriel. Third-person limited narration allows readers to discover the community's hidden secrets alongside Jonas. Lowry uses foreshadowing and indirect characterisation to build suspense and reveal Jonas's difference from others in his community. This creates a growing sense of unease that reveals how conformity and control suppress individual awareness.

In the book, "The Giver", by Lois Lowry, the author explores the idea of...
through the protagonist Jonas, who...

Jonas awakening, see community's hidden suffering,
exposes profound and ethical costs of conformity.

explores the idea of isolation, who lives in a community with
the principle of sameness isolating him because he can experience feelings
and memories that others can't.

explores idea of sameness,
lies beneath the seemingly perfect surface
uncovers these truth leading him to change his mindset leading others to also
learn about them.

learns about dark truth of community at first, seems safe
story is revealed through Jonas's journey of receiving memories.

STAGE 2: Essay Planning from Your Introduction

Key idea: Your introduction gives your argument; your body paragraphs provide the chapter evidence that proves it.

Step 1: Identify Your Three Chapter Moments

Your thesis names the voice, devices, and effect. Now you need to plan WHERE in the text you'll find evidence.

Mode 1 (Narrative-Driven): Follow Jonas's journey chronologically—Chapter 1 → Chapter 3 → Chapter 11.

Each chapter shows a different stage of Jonas's awakening:

Body Paragraph	Chapter	Focus
BP1	Chapter 1	Early hints—something is wrong
BP2	Chapter 3	Jonas's difference emerges
BP3	Chapter 11	Full revelation—what was lost

Fill in how your thesis elements appear in each chapter:

Chapter	Which device from your thesis?	What effect does it create here?
Chapter 1		
Chapter 3		
Chapter 11		

direct/indirect characterisation - learn about Jonas's unique character

foreshadowing - tells us about potentially bad events in the future.
dark truth, community, sameness.

third person limited - live experience of Jonas as he gains feelings and memories

Step 2: Expand Each Moment into a Paragraph Plan

For each body paragraph, identify:

- **Device:** What technique are you analysing?
- **Effect:** What does it create for readers?
- **Evidence:** What specific moment/quote will you use?
- **Connection to thesis:** How does this support your overall argument?

Body Paragraph 1: Chapter 1

Element	Your Plan
Device	Foreshadowing
Effect	Creates unease / hints at hidden truth
Evidence (specific moment)	
How voice controls this	Third-person limited means readers only know what Jonas knows
Connection to thesis	Establishes the "false normalcy" that Jonas will later see through

Topic sentence (TVODE) draft:

Foreshadowing creates unease and subtly hints at dark truth behind the seemingly perfectly community.

Lowry uses foreshadowing, which is the rule of sameness

Body Paragraph 2: Chapter 3

Element	Your Plan
Device	Indirect characterisation
Effect	Reveals Jonas's questioning nature / difference
Evidence (specific moment)	
How voice controls this	Readers see Jonas's curiosity through his actions, not statements
Connection to thesis	Shows WHY Jonas will be the one to discover truth

Topic sentence (TVODE) draft:

Body Paragraph 3: Chapter 11

Element	Your Plan
Device	Sensory imagery
Effect	Delivers emotional revelation of what Sameness cost
Evidence (specific moment)	
How voice controls this	Close narrative distance means readers FEEL the memory with Jonas
Connection to thesis	The payoff—readers experience what the community lost

Topic sentence (TVODE) draft:

Topic - third person limited - readers live experience of Jonas as he gains feelings and memories

Evidence - Give an example The sled...

Evaluation/Explanation - The sled was the first time that Jonas felt happy and had fun..

Link - especially how he fights through the isolation and help the citizens, because he wants them to enjoy the same experiences that he had.

Lowry does this so the readers can better understand Jonas's journey, specifically... isolation, dark truth, sameness, community, awakening, change of mindset,

Step 3: Check Your Alignment

Your essay should build logically. Check that your paragraphs connect:

Effect Progression

- BP1 creates **unease** (something is wrong)
- BP2 develops **curiosity** (Jonas is different, he questions)
- BP3 delivers **revelation** (readers feel what was lost)

Voice Control

- Third-person limited controls discovery in ALL THREE paragraphs
- Readers learn things WHEN Jonas learns them

Thesis Connection

- Each paragraph connects back to my thesis claim
- The three paragraphs together PROVE my thesis

reveals jonas's true nature, gradually exposing his empathy, morality,...
navigates ethical complexities of his community.

reveal jonas's curiosi nature, differentiates him from the community, where people
aren't as observant.
this is shown through the tossing rolling of the apple.

jonas's difference to the community, where he experiences different feelings.
his eyes looking pale compared to everybody.

reveals jonas's difference through his curiosity in his actions.
like throwing the apple.

shows jona scareful personality through his actions, thoughts and interactions.
for example, growing discomfort are shown when he...

Sensory imagery immerses the readers in Jonas's experiences.

Step 4: Your Essay Plan Summary

Fill in this overview to use when writing:

Introduction: [Already written in Stage 1]

Body Paragraph 1 (Chapter 1):

Topic: _____

Device: _____

Key evidence: _____

Effect: _____

Body Paragraph 2 (Chapter 3):

Topic: _____

Device: _____

Key evidence: _____

Effect: _____

Body Paragraph 3 (Chapter 11):

Topic: _____

Device: _____

Key evidence: _____

Effect: _____

Conclusion: Return to thesis—how do all three chapters together reveal the theme of conformity suppressing individual awareness?
