

POSITION 1

Analysis: Lit - Oscar Wao

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY:

This paper scores a low one because each paragraph has a general controlling idea presented in the topic sentence. However, they do not pose an argument, and they do not answer the prompt (although they are vaguely relevant). Moreover, the thesis statement does not pose an argument.

CRITERION 1: THESIS

The thesis statement is not defensible nor does it address the prompt; it is a stock vague definition of a “coming of age” and does not reflect any of the content of the novel. No one could argue that someone who “came of age” did so *not* because of “experiences” and “challenges.” In addition, one could argue that Oscar Wao, the character, did *not* overcome his challenges in the novel, as evidenced by his death.

CRITERION 2: ASSERTIONS

The topic sentences read as follows:

“When Oscar was younger, he had all the girls.”

“Nevertheless, Oscar was now a teenager.”

“Oscar was now an adult; he knew what he wanted and how he was going to get it.”

The first topic sentence is vaguely connected to the prompt, but factually inaccurate to the novel. (Throughout the paper, the writer confuses the narrator of the novel, Yuniior, with Oscar.) Moreover, it does not present any argument that supports the vague thesis statement, although the concept of him “getting all the girls” is *vaguely* connected to the idea of “coming of age.” The weakest topic sentence is the second, which does not contain any content (accurate or not) that can relate back to the thesis statement. The third assertion is not accurate for either Oscar *or* Yuniior, but is another stock statement about being an adult that does not address the prompt (although vaguely connected to “coming of age”).

In general, however, each topic sentence presents an attempt at a controlling idea for the paragraph. They are also all *relevant* to the prompt because they attempt to address the progression of a coming-of-age of the main character. However, they do not support the thesis because of the factual inaccuracy to the book, and the lack of any argumentative statement in the topic sentences themselves.

Essay: Lit - Oscar Wao

PBA #1 Question –

How does Junot Diaz' emphasis on the importance of connecting with others influence Oscar Wao's coming of age?

PBA#1

Oscar is finally not a virgin, he finally came of age. In *The Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* Junot Diaz shows Oscar coming of age. As Oscar was growing up he went through many stages. He went from being cute and getting all the girls, to having pimples on his face. Oscar came of age because of the experiences he faced and the challenges he overcame.

When Oscar was younger, he had all the girls. Although at this age Oscar didn't need to understand how he feels about girls. There was one break up that made him realize that he has feelings and it hurts when you lose something that is important to you. As Junot Diaz shows Oscar is doing a lot of reflecting and trying to understand why everything happened the way it did. Moreover, Oscar was a player so he couldn't let this affect him.

Nevertheless, Oscar was now a teenager. He only had two friends that didn't have much in common with him. At this stage nobody really wanted to talk to him. As said in the book, "Oscar was a poor excuse for a Dominican boy." At this point since nobody really associated themselves with him, he got fat. Since Oscar was so to himself, he went unnoticed. Oscar was coming of age because he found things that were more important to him. He, at this point decided to take a different path in life.

Oscar was now an adult; he knew what he wanted and how he was going to get it. Meeting someone that understood him, and liked him for him was going to be a good relationship. Going to college, Oscar met a girl named Ybon. Ybon made Oscar experience life. At this point Oscar started to reflect and think of what he could have done to make his life better. College was the breaking point for Oscar; he had more independence and freedom. He wasn't trapped in a shell anymore; he started making decisions on his own. He realized he can make his life anything that he wanted it to be. Everything that Oscar experienced at this time showed him growing up and coming of age.

In conclusion, in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* Junot Diaz shows Oscar coming of age. All the experiences that he faced taught him new things. This made him realize his life is in his hands. He had total control and that's what he had to learn.