

# **The steps of writing an academic essay**

**“The roots of the tensions in the married couples’ relationships  
in the stories by William Trevor and F.S. Fitzgerald”**

# STRUCTURE

- Introduction
- Body:
  - 'The Teddy Bears' Picnic'
  - 'The Rough Crossing'
  - Similarities
  - Differences
- Conclusion

*(600-1000 words)*

# Paragraph 1: Introduction

# Sentence 1: The “hook”

- *Literature has always taken interest in the **eternal problems of relationships such as love, mutual respect, and devotion.***
- *The controversial topic of **romantic relationships between a woman and a man** has always been intriguing.*
- *A **relationship between two people** is an eternal theme for many literary works.*
- ***Love** is the most amazing feeling in the universe that is why its uniqueness and inexplicability have attracted masters in all times.*
- *For centuries **love and relationships between loving people** has been an attractive theme in literature.*

# Sentence 2: Transition between the hook and the thesis statement

- *Following the tradition of global literature, the 20<sup>th</sup> century masters - William Trevor and Francis Scott Fitzgerald - depicted tensions between the young spouses in their stories “The Teddy-bears’ Picnic” and “The Rough Crossing”, respectively.*
- *It has been explored by writers in all epochs, including the 20<sup>th</sup> century masters.*
- *Such tendencies can be seen in the 20th century literature, as a decent number of novels are dedicated to interpersonal relationships.*
- *Like the best representatives of the generation of the 20<sup>th</sup> century writers, W.Trevor and F.S Fitzgerald vividly illustrated this phenomenon in their stories “The Teddy-Bears` Picnic” and “The Rough Crossing”.*
- *However, western literature of the 20th century worked out a new approach to depicting marital relationships.*

# Sentence 3: The thesis statement

- *The two famous authors of the 20<sup>th</sup> century focused on depicting the development of conflicts between men and women including married couples in their stories as well as revealing their roots by **putting the characters in tense situations and adverse conditions.***
- *Thus, the two authors of the 20th century worked out a new approach to depicting the roots of tensions in the relationships of the married couples by **putting them in extreme circumstances and adverse situations.***
- *So as to reveal the roots of tensions in the relationships between the spouses the authors created the similar circumstances which all marital relationships experienced in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, **i.e. inconvenient circumstances and unstable situations.***
- *By putting the spouses in **adverse conditions and stressful situations**, they investigated the roots of conflicts which seemed to embrace the spouses' personal traits, their social background and marital roles.*
- *Nevertheless, the writers applied a new approach to revealing the roots of the conflicts in the main characters' relationships by **subduing their protagonists to challenges.***

Paragraph 2: “The Teddy Bears’ Picnic”

# The topic sentence

- *As for the relations between Edwin and Deborah, a newly married couple, in “The Teddy-bears’ Picnic” by W. Trevor, it was quite **immature, rough and unstable**.*
- *In the story «The Teddy Bears’ Picnic» by W. Trevor the relationship between the young spouses - Deborah and Edwin - can be described as **immature, selfish and changeable**.*
- *The distinguishing feature of the relationship between Edwin and Deborah in W. Trevor's stor "The Teddy-bears' Picnic" is a **rough, immature and changeable** attitude of the newlyweds towards each other.*
- *In W. Trevor's story “The Teddy-bears' picnic” an **immature, rough and changeable** relationship between the spouses is deeply rooted in the **childish** attitude to marriage, their personality traits and background.*
- *The relationship between Edwin and Deborah in William Trevor's "Teddy-bears' Picnic" represents a constantly developing conflict, the root of which lies with the main characters' personality traits, their background and **immature nature** of the marital relationship.*



# Supporting sentences (possible)

- *Support 1*: frequent quarrels about silly things
- *Support 2*: from quarrel to passion, from love to fear
- *Support 3*: childish behavior of each spouse

# The concluding sentence

- *Thus, all the tensions in Edwin and Deborah's relationship **take their roots in their immaturity, romantic view and distorted perception** of each other as well as their **childish behaviour**; all these underlying causes become disclosed due to an insignificant stressful situation – the teddy bears' picnic.*
- *In sum, their **distorted and unrealistic** perception of each other is the root of the conflict.*
- *Based on these facts, the root of the conflict lies in the **imaginary and unrealistic perception** of married life by the both spouses.*
- *As a result, such **discrepancies and distortions** in the perception of each other formed the greatest ordeal they faced, and became a fertile ground for the tensions in their relationship.*
- *It is obvious that the conflict evolved due to the differences in the newlyweds' personality traits, their background and up-bringing.*

Paragraph 3: “The Rough Crossing”

# The topic sentence

- *Unlike the changeable relationship of Edwin and Deborah, the marriage of Adrian and Eva in the story “The Rough Crossing” had been **cloudless** until it faced a **formidable challenge**.*
- *Adrian and Eva in the story “The Rough Crossing” by F.S. Fitzgerald find themselves in a critical situation where their **stable and strong** marriage is tested for **strength and devotion**.*
- *In the story “The Rough Crossing” the married couple of Adrian and Eva had lived in **harmony and mutual understanding** until their relationship entered “**the zone of the storm**”.*
- *Unlike Edwin and Deborah, the characters of F Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Rough Crossing”, Adrian and Eva, demonstrate quite **a devoted, stable and loving** relationship that faces a **tremendous blow** caused by the intrusion of strange people and **adverse circumstances**.*
- *As for F.S. Fitzgerald’s ‘The Rough Crossing’, after “**a seven-year-long dream**”, the relationship between Eva and Adrian, is faced with **extreme circumstances** that test their marriage for **strength, devotion and affection**.*
- *In contrast to the previous couple, Eva and Adrian from "The Rough Crossing" have a **smooth, stable and long-lasting relationship** which is exposed to the **rough environment**.*

# Supporting sentences (possible)

- *Support 1:* Eve's feelings towards her husband, the way she treats him, transformation of her attitude driven by the circumstances, what she is ready for for the sake of love.
- *Support 2:* feelings and behavior typical of Adrian, cherishing his wife, being tender, kind, caressing and caring; the cause of the behavior transformation and how soon he returns to his sober senses; what he is ready for for the sake of love.

# The concluding sentence

- *Thus, the cause of their conflict was emergence of the **worst sides of the both spouses' traits under extreme circumstances.***
- *Thus, the root of the problem of this couple is connected with their personality traits which became evident **under adverse circumstances** and threatened to ruin the relationship.*
- *The root of their tension is the manifestation of **the vicious sides of their personality traits under extreme circumstances.***
- *All in all, the root of the conflict between Adrian and Eva lies with **extreme conditions**, which test their relationship for strength.*
- *The root of the conflict lies with **extreme circumstances** where the worst traits of the two spouses' personalities are revealed.*

## Paragraph 4: Similarities

# The topic sentence

- *So as to add to the analysis of the roots of tensions the **similarities** between the two couples should be taken into consideration.*
- *Despite the fact that the tense situations in which both couples find themselves are different in time and attending circumstances, there are **obvious similarities** in the characteristics of these marital relationships.*
- *Like most young couples, these marital relationships have **similar features**.*
- *The relationships between the spouses in the two married couples have **common characteristics**.*
- *As a rule, the majority of young couples are **quite similar** in many aspects, as they have quarrels about silly things, happen to be jealous, belong to the same social class.*
- *On the one hand, the two couples **have much in common**; they are young, belong to the same social class, and have complicated relationships.*



# Supporting sentences (possible)

- *Support 1*: age and social background
- *Support 2*: how they feel toward each other. A more confident and self-centered spouse feels more jealous.
- *Support 3*: quarrels about silly things

# The concluding sentence

- *However strange it may seem, the distinctions between the spouses do not prevent them from falling in love and getting married, which can highlight a **typical characteristic of marital relationship** in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as reveal the roots of tensions.*
- *All these features make them **representative of the 20th century's upper-middle-class couples** in the western society.*
- *All these features taken together shape a clear idea **of a typical married couple of the 20<sup>th</sup> century** and considerably contribute to the exposure of the basic causes of tense relationships between the spouses.*
- *All these similarities make them **typical representatives of the 20<sup>th</sup> century married couples** in western society.*
- *All these commonalities are consistent with the previously identified causes **of tense relationships in these couples.***

## Paragraph 5: Differences

# The topic sentence

- *On the other hand, the relationships between the partners in the married couples have **crucial differences**.*
- *Nonetheless, there are quite **noticeable differences** between the two married couples.*
- *Despite certain similarities between the married couples in these two stories, the **differences**, though, disclose the roots of conflicts much more **obviously and vividly**.*
- *Along with the obvious common features, there are a few **significant differences** in the relationships of the two couples.*
- *Despite the common features, there are a number of **significant differences** in the relationships between the spouses in the two couples.*

# Supporting sentences (possible)

- *Support 1:* initially the social status of every spouse is different
- *Support 2:* inferior-superior roles in the couples
- *Support 3:* interests and aims in life

# The concluding sentence

- *All these individual peculiarities contribute to the **emersion of tensions between the spouses**.*
- *All these discrepancies clearly outline the scope of issues which make up the basis for **tensions in their marital relationships**.*
- *And finally, Adrian and Eva raised children, which indicates a much greater degree of maturity of the relationship. This particular feature radically and dramatically distinguishes them from a love-and-hate relationship between Edwin and Deborah.*
- *However strange it may seem, the distinctions between the spouses do not prevent them from falling in love and getting married, which can highlight **a typical characteristic of marital relationships in the 20<sup>th</sup> century**, as well as reveal the roots of tensions.*
- *One more distinction is that Edwin and Deborah thought only about themselves and pursued their own selfish interests, **whereas** the Adrian Smiths overcame difficulties to save their love and marriage.*

## Paragraph 6: Conclusion

# Why is the theme of intermarriage relations attractive for the authors in the 20<sup>th</sup> century? Do writers disclose the true or imaginary roots of tensions? Sum up the body paragraphs and re-state the thesis statement.

- *In sum*, the relationship between a man and a woman is an eternal subject for investigation. This theme was also attractive to the authors in the 20th century, as it was the time of instability and profound changes in the society which greatly influenced the marital relationships. So as to disclose the true roots of tensions in the ties between spouses, they are exposed to severe situations. Inconvenience and instability of events reveal that men and women's personal traits, their background and upbringing – all can become the underlying causes of conflicts.
- The 20th century is a century of turmoil, which had a huge impact not only on the world, but also on people's lives. The authors of the 20th century raised the question of how people who loved each other would go through "the storm" of the 20th century. Following this objective, they depicted the roots of tensions in young couples' marital relationships by investigating the personal traits of the spouses and what these traits could reveal if men and women were exposed to adverse circumstances and inconvenient situations.
- **Summing it all up**, it is worth noting that the roots of tensions in the relationship of the married couples are tightly linked to the disturbing circumstances they find themselves in. Consequently, these adverse situations reveal such dark sides of the spouses' personalities that nearly undermine their marriages. This stylistic device of the both authors is responsive to the historic period and those calamities which the 20<sup>th</sup> century witnessed.
- **Given it all**, the theme of tensions in marital relationships is widely pronounced and recognized in global literature. For the 20<sup>th</sup> century writers it became especially relevant and topical since the tough times of the world wars and crises had left an imprint on human relationships. In conclusion, it should be said that the roots of the main characters' tensions lie with the adverse circumstances which disclose their worst traits and nearly ruin their relationships.