

The Most Dangerous Essay Prompts

Directions – Select one of the prompts below and write an essay. Be sure to include specific details from the story to support your opinion with specific examples from the selection.

1. After his first meeting with Zaroff, Rainsford spends a sleepless night because he cannot “quiet his brain.” In a brief essay, discuss what is probably going through Rainsford’s head. Describe his reactions to his first day on Ship-Trap Island. Be sure to give reasons and examples from the story to explain why Rainsford responds this way. Your essay must be at least 200 words.
2. The ending of “The Most Dangerous Game” suggests that Rainsford changes his attitude toward big-game hunting. What are his thoughts about hunting animals at the beginning of the story? How does he most likely feel about hunting animals after his experience with Zaroff? In a brief essay, discuss your ideas and answers to these questions. Your essay must be at least 200 words.
3. Twice in “The Most Dangerous Game,” Rainsford enters into necessary conflicts. His first conflict is with the sea, and his second conflict is with Zaroff. In an essay, compare and contrast these two conflicts. Describe the action. Tell why the conflicts are both necessary for Rainsford. Then tell how these external conflicts are different. Use evidence from the story to support your ideas. Your essay must be at least 200 words.
4. The main conflict of “The Most Dangerous Game” pits two characters against each other in a truly perilous combat. While Sanger Rainsford would probably hesitate to admit it, he and General Zaroff actually have much in common. Write a brief essay in which you explore the ways in which Rainsford and Zaroff are alike and the ways in which they differ. Your essay must be at least 200 words.
5. Suspense is the quality of a story that makes you want to keep reading until you find out what happens. Writers create suspense by communicating a sense of uncertainty and danger. In a brief essay, identify three suspenseful episodes in “The Most Dangerous Game,” and analyze the ways in which the author makes you want to keep reading. Be as specific as possible in your analysis. Your essay must be at least 200 words.

Be sure to:

Create an effective thesis sentence

Use appropriate organization

Provide specific support for your argument

Choose your words carefully

Edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Name: Attitude Change

Introduction

In 1924 Richard

Thesis

Thesis

Thesis: At the beginning

of the story, Rainsford has no sympathy for the animals he hunts; however, as a result of his experience with Zerkoff his

Body 1 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

when the reader first meets Sanger Rainsford, he has no empathy for the ^{species} game he hunts. He reveals this during a conversation with his friend Whitney when Whitney says hunting is ~~the~~ a great sport, Rainsford says it's the greatest sport in the world. Whitney agrees that's true

attitude change.

Body 2 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

for the hunter, but not for the jaguar. Rainsford laughs and asks his friend, "who cares how a jaguar feels" (Cornell 216). Whitney replies, "Perhaps the jaguar does," (Cornell 216). Rainsford considers this to be nonsense. He explains his belief that the world consists of two classes: the

Body 3 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

hunters and the hunted. He tells Whitney, "Luckily you and I are the hunters" (Cornell 216). It's obvious Rainsford has no sympathy for the animals he hunts.

OVER →

Conclusion

Restate Thesis

" [Maybe] the jaguar does "

Name: Necessary Conflicts

Conflict is defined as a struggle between two opposing forces. It is often the driving force of the actions and events that occur in a story.

(Conflict) may be internal or external. E

Introduction

This is true of "The Most Dangerous Game" written by Richard Connell in 1924.

Thesis

Thesis: Twice in "The Most Dangerous Game" the protagonist Sanger Rainsford enters into necessary conflicts.

Body 1 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

Rainsford's first conflict is with the sea. This is conflict or external conflict man versus nature conflict. The conflict begins when Rainsford falls overboard from the yacht he is travelling on.

Body 2 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

These two conflicts are both necessary to the story's plot. Without the first one, Rainsford would never have... Without the second one there would be no story. Although they are both external conflicts, the first is Rainsford vs Nature

without conflict, there's no story

Body 3 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

Rainsford's second conflict is with Zaroff. It is also an external conflict, and it can be classified as a man versus man conflict. This conflict begins when Zaroff forces Rainsford to participate in his "game". Since Rainsford is unwilling to hunt with Zaroff, Zaroff

decides to hunt him.

Conclusion

Restate Thesis

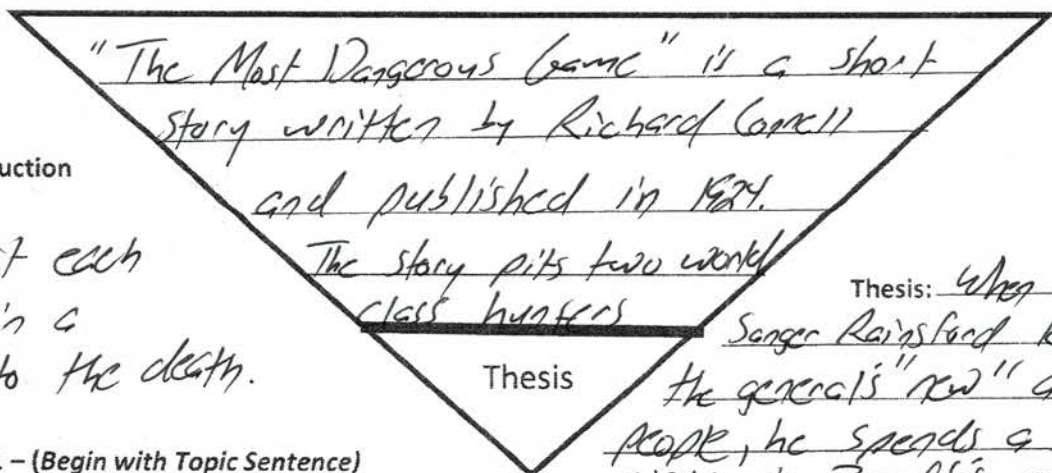
quotes

cat and mouse

Knew what it was like

This is the story's main conflict and takes up most of the story.

Name: Sleepless Night



Introduction

against each other in a battle to the death.

Thesis: When the protagonist,

Sanger Rainsford learns that the general's "new" animal is people, he spends a sleepless night in Zaroff's mansion.

Thesis

Body 1 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

There are many reasons Rainsford is unable to sleep: he is concerned about his safety, he is sickened by Zaroff's game, he questions Zaroff's sanity and thinks about escape. Rainsford knows Zaroff is a murderer and desperately considers how to escape...

Body 2 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

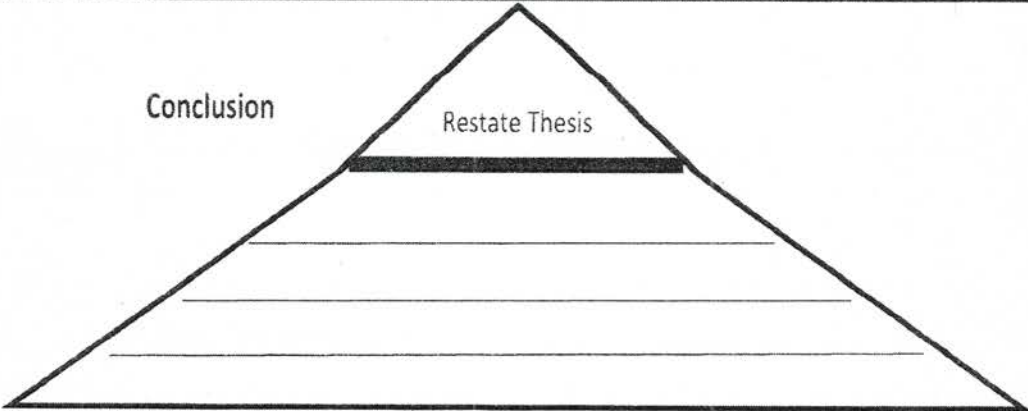
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Body 3 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

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Conclusion

Restate Thesis



Name: Similarities and Differences

Introduction
"The Most Dangerous Game," Richard Connell's most popular short story was first published in 1924. It is a suspenseful story that pits two characters against each other in a battle to the death.

Thesis

Thesis: At the beginning of the story the protagonist, Sanger Rainsford, has much in common with the antagonist, General Zaroff, but there is one defining difference between the two men.

Body 1 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

T.S.

Rainsford would be reluctant to admit it, but he and General Zaroff have many similarities. For example, both men are avid hunters. When the story begins, Rainsford is on a yacht traveling to South America to hunt jaguar. In a conversation with his friend Whitney, Rainsford says hunting is, "the greatest sport in the world" (Connell 215). Later, when Rainsford and Zaroff (1st) meet, Zaroff reveals that he has hunted since he was a child, and, like Rainsford, he has hunted all over the world. Over dinner, the two

Body 2 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

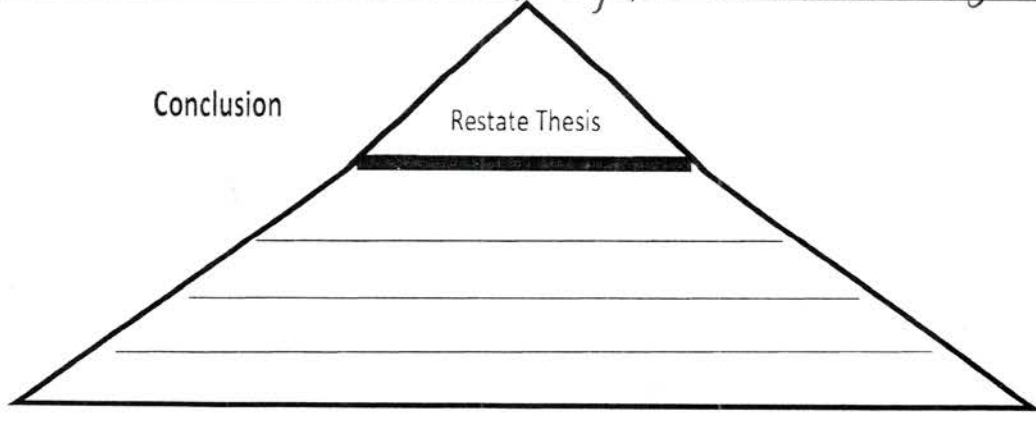
men seem well men discuss hunting and it is clear that they are both passionate about hunting. Another similarity between the two men is that they share similar world views. During his conversation with Whitney, Rainsford says

Body 3 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

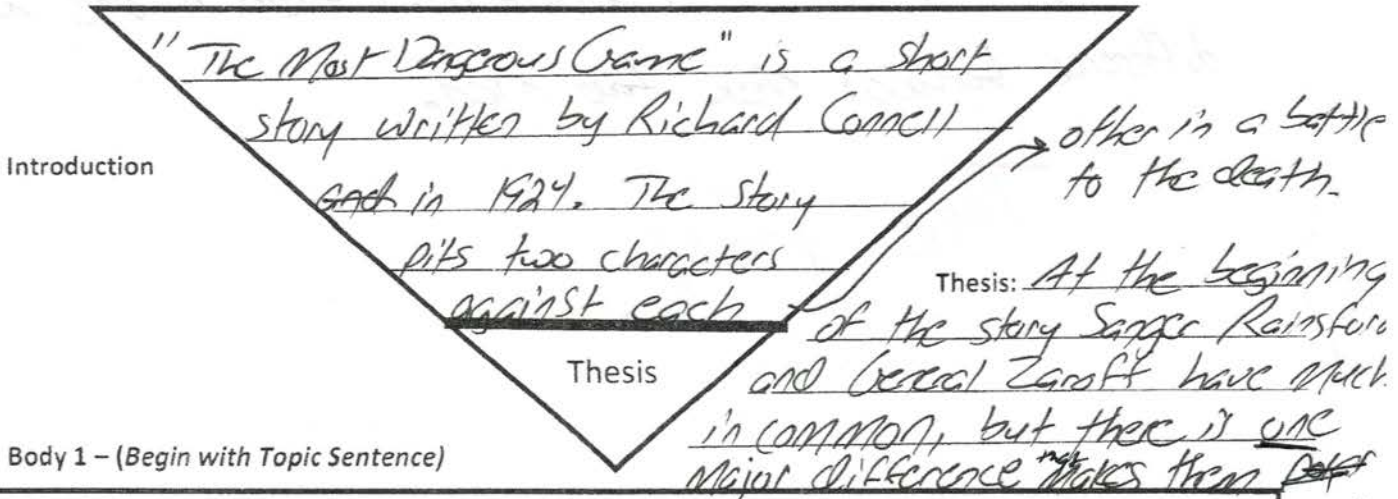
men seem well men discuss hunting and it is clear that they are both passionate about hunting. Another similarity between the two men is that they share similar world views. During his conversation with Whitney, Rainsford says

Conclusion

Restate Thesis



Name: Similarities



Body 1 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

TS Although Rainsford would probably hesitate to admit it, he and Zaroff have much in common.

C.D. One thing these two men have in common is similar world views. Rainsford states that, "the world is made up of ~~the~~ hunters and the hunted." (Connell 815). This is similar

Body 2 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

Analysis to what Zaroff believes, "Life is for the strong to be lived by the strong and if need be, taken by the strong." Clearly both men believe the world is made up of two types of people. Another similarity between the two men is both feel no remorse for what they hunt.

2 types for strong vs weak

?? Quote

Body 3 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

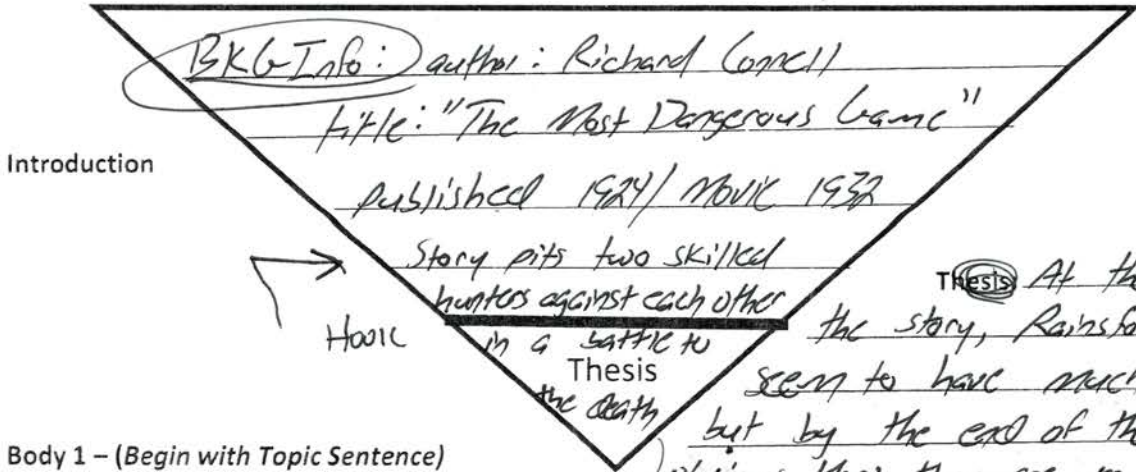
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Conclusion

Restate Thesis

move it to Zaroff's lack of morals.

Name: Similarities / Difference



Body 1 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

Although Rainsford would be reluctant to admit it, he and General Zaroff share many similarities.

World view, intelligence, physically fit, know a number of hunting tricks, worldly-well-travelled, passionate hunters etc.

Body 2 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

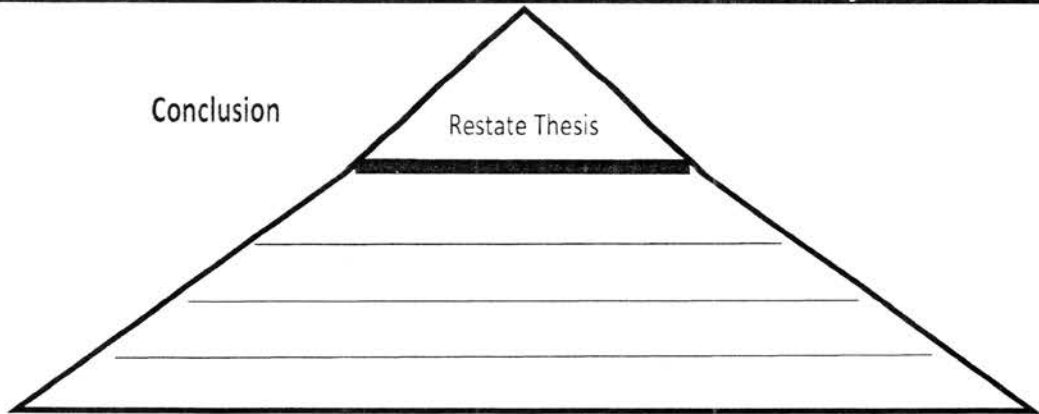
In spite of their many similarities, Rainsford and Zaroff have one major difference between them. Although Rainsford loves hunting, he draws the line at hunting humans; General Zaroff makes no such distinction.

Body 3 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

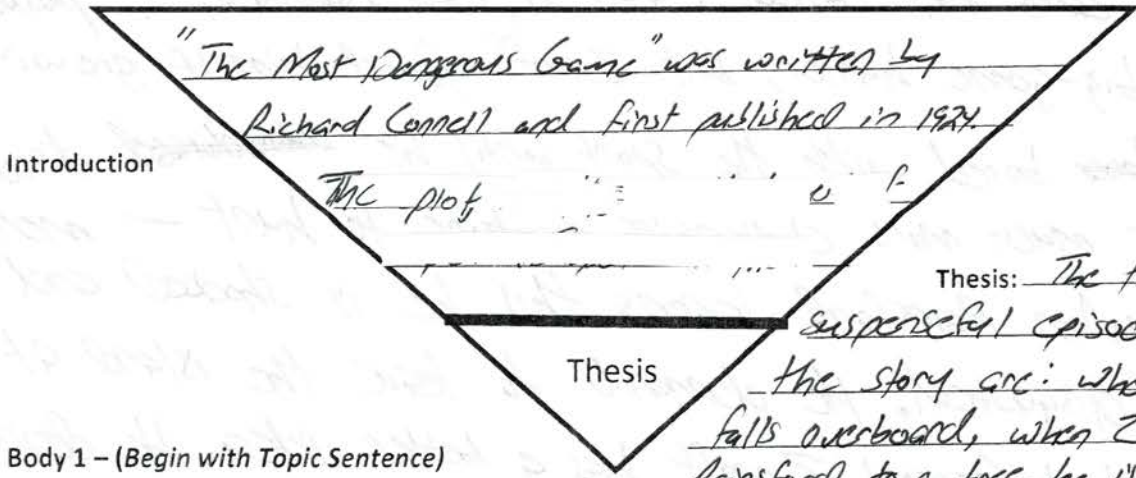
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Conclusion

Restate Thesis



Name: Suspense



Body 1 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

Suspense is introduced at the very beginning of the story when the reader learns of a mysterious, and apparently dangerous island located in the vicinity in which Rainsford and Whitney find their yacht passing through. The suspense is ratcheted up a level when Rainsford who is on deck alone while falls overboard. The other passengers are sleeping so no one witnesses Rainsford's unfortunate accident. At this point in the story the reader finds himself wondering if Rainsford will survive this calamity. "Use quotes to illustrate struggle to reach island hid learned of earlier"

Body 2 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

Once Rainsford reaches the island and comes upon the polite and well-mannered and welcoming General Zaroff who inhabits the island along with his trusted servant Ivan, Rainsford, and perhaps the reader, thinks he is safe, but the suspense is just beginning. Rainsford →

Body 3 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

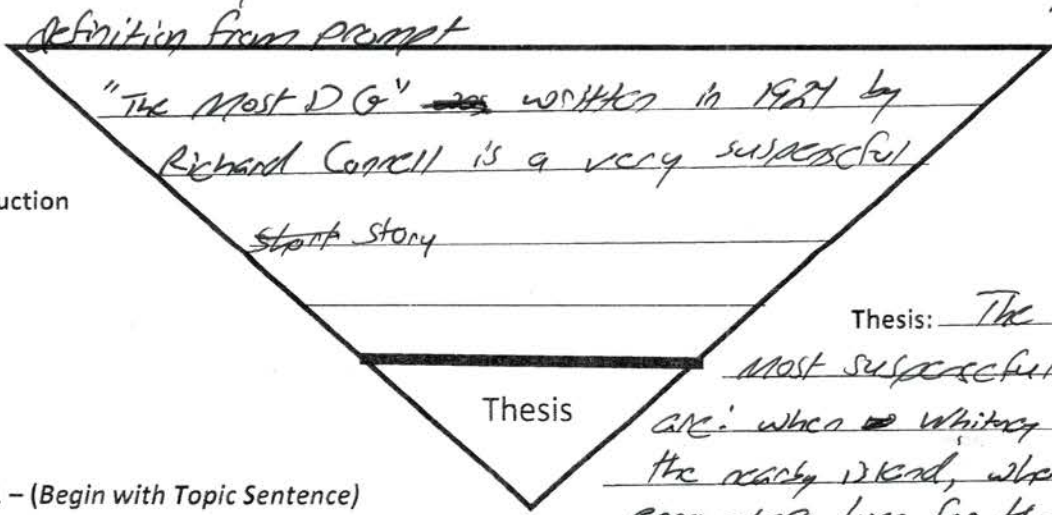
Conclusion

Restate Thesis

and when Rainsford apparently leaps to his death in order to cheat Zaroff of his victory.

Name: Suspense

Begin
middle
End



Introduction

Start story

Thesis

Thesis: The three most suspenseful episodes are: when Whitney describes the nearby island, when Ramsford encounters Ivan for the first time,

Body 1 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

T.S.
 The first ~~episode~~ suspenseful episode ^{occurs} when Whitney describes the nearby island to Ramsford. Whitney tells Ramsford, "off there to the right somewhere is a large island. It's rather a mystery" (Connell 215)
 A reader is immediately drawn into this story. He or she is

and when Ramsford keeps off the cliff.

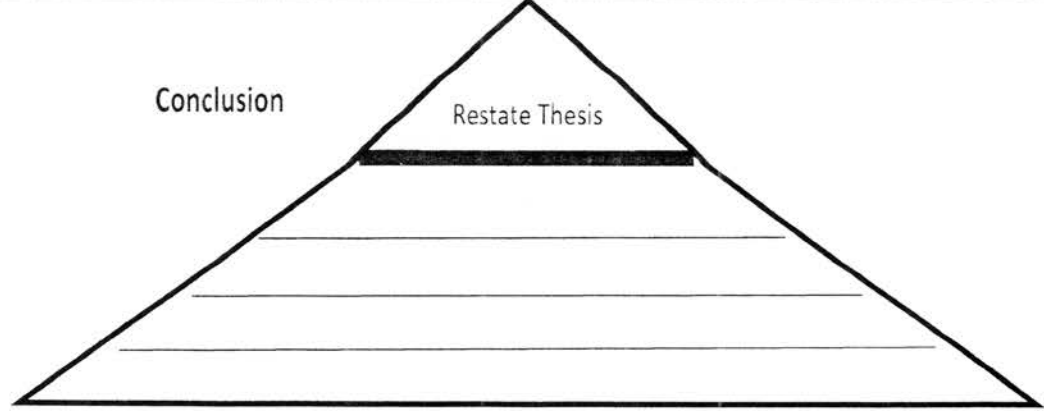
Body 2 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

will play in this story. The island will play a major part in this story.

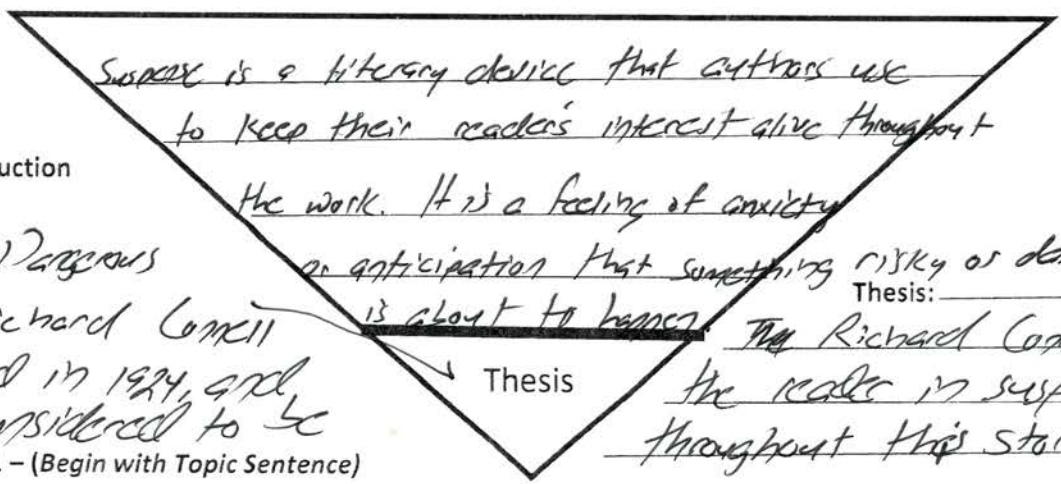
T.S.
 The second important episode occurs after Ramsford fall overboard and manages to swim to the 97 island.

Body 3 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

[Empty writing area for Body 3]



Name: Suspense



"The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell was published in 1924, and is widely considered to be one of the most suspenseful short stories ever written.

Introduction

Body 1 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

Suspense is introduced at the very beginning of the story when the reader learns of a mysterious island located in the vicinity of the yacht on which Sanger Rainsford, the protagonist, and his friends are ~~sailing~~ traveling to the Amazon River Basin. The introduction

Body 2 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

of this island serves to

Body 3 - (Begin with Topic Sentence)

