

## **Make Your Body Paragraphs STIC**

Adapted from *They Say/I Say*

In the STIC approach, every body paragraph should have 4 basic parts to it:

- S**titch (the transition sentence that connects it to the previous paragraph)
- T**hey Say (introduce your source/evidence with significant a quotation or paraphrase)
- I** Say (explain the evidence and explicate what you see is important in it)
- C**onnect (...your paragraph to the overall focus of your paper).

Even though the reader will see it in this order, you will not write it in that order. Instead:

### **1. Start with the **THEY SAY**.**

- Introduce text and author
- Integrate a direct quotation or paraphrase

### **2. Follow with the **I SAY** to explain and explicate the source material.**

### **3. Use the stitching worksheet to add **STITCH** sentences to tie your paragraphs together.**

- 4.** Then, move to your introduction paragraph. Once you find your paper's focus, come back in and **write the **CONNECT** sentences** which will explicate how each paragraph moves your paper forward. You may start (and then revise out) by saying "This is important because..."

★THEY SAY > ☆I SAY > ♦STITCH > ◇CONNECT

♦We must acknowledge the ways that language and power are shaped by not only who we hear but how we hear it. ★In her comedy special, *Nanette*, Hannah Gadsby urges us to consider both how we tell stories and whose stories we hear. She says, "Ignorance will always walk amongst us because we will never know all of the things" (Gadsby). ☆In other words, we can't know all experiences because we are bound to our own experience and what we are able to see. She encourages us to listen to others' stories and expand our knowledge, rather than coming from a place of ignorance. During the special, she argues that "our diversity is our strength" and listening allows us to form connections with each other. These connections, as she encouraged us to see, help us to create a more tolerant, understanding world where all individuals are respected. ◇When we don't listen, we uphold positions of power, and the stories we tell and language we use simply reinforce those power structures and render people not in power invisible or powerless.

♦Even if we acknowledge the need for many different stories that share many different experiences, our very language shuts down many of them, even if we don't realize it. ★In their article, "Politically Correct," Don LePan, Laura Buzzard, and Maureen Okun argue that our language has material impacts on the world and shapes what we can think. One point they make is that the term "fireman" creates a problem when little girls see the image as not including them, and therefore do not even think of the possibility of becoming a fire person (Le Pan et al. 215). ☆The way we raise our children sets certain expectations for them—conscious or unconscious—that may limit what a child thinks is possible. These limits can affect what a person is able to do, and can close off their ability to see themselves as anything bigger or better. By shifting our language to gender neutral terminology, like "fire person" instead of "fireman," we are more able to open our minds to see greater possibilities. ◇ By shifting the way we think about our language and seeing the implicit biases in the words we use themselves, we are able to help reassess how we use these terms and what terms we use. In doing so, we can make more space and understanding for all individuals.