

ANOTHER ANALYSIS OF KUSHMAN

NOTE: I am not going to give you a complete reanalysis here, but if you follow this basic outline, you should be OK.

Part 1: The Problem

In your first outlines many of you followed the general order of Kushman's article and outlined his essay in the following way.

Kushman does not like the new Disney "Cinderella" because it has problems.

- 1) Contradictions
- 2) Stereotypes
- 3) Mixed messages
- 4) Magic

SOME SAMPLE PROBLEM AREAS:

1. You have the wrong thesis.
2. 1-4 are not complete sentences so they can't be supporting arguments.
3. 1-4 are not four separate categories. They are all interrelated and at the same time at different levels of generality.
4. (1) and (3) refer to the same idea.
5. (2) and (4) are examples that Kushman presented to prove his supporting arguments. They are not separate arguments.

In other words, many of your analyses of Kushman were a little confused. However, this analysis more or less follows the order of his presentation.

If someone presents the following statements in defense of a thesis, you have various ways to organize them.

$A + B + C + D + E \rightarrow \text{THESIS}$

For example, A-E all support the THESIS equally. They are all separate arguments.

$(A \leftarrow B+C) + (D \leftarrow E) \rightarrow \text{THESIS}$

In this case, we have two arguments, A and D, supports B+C support A and E supports D.

$$(A \leftarrow B) + (C \leftarrow D+E) \rightarrow \text{THESIS}$$

In this case, we have two arguments, A and C, where B supports A and D+E supports C.

The point here is that you should not assume that simply because two statements are next to each other they belong together. In your own papers, you need to make the logical relationships between sentences and paragraphs absolutely clear. But many writers, even professional ones, are frequently sloppy with their organization. Kushman (or his editor) does not always group similar arguments together, so you have to do a little rearranging. Again, this type of situation is quite common in the popular media.

Part 2: The Solution

To straighten out the logic of Kushman's argument, you first need to state his thesis as clearly as possible. Your thesis should not be too general or too specific.

Kushman's main focus in the essay is on what the Disney producers said they were going to do versus what they actually did in the film.

I believe that the Disney producers failed in their attempt to present new and enlightened messages and they failed in their attempt to change some of the old messages in their recent production of *Cinderella*.

<Refer to all the Disney people as the "Disney producers" since the director, Iscove, seems not to have had complete control over the themes and messages>

NOTE: The Disney spokespersons seem to be referring to both the Rodgers and Hammerstein version of *Cinderella* and the original Disney animated version. So Kushman appears to be referring to both as well.

OUTLINE OF KUSHMAN'S SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS

SUPPORTING ARGUMENT 1: I BELIEVE THAT NDC FAILS TO PRESENT THE NEW AND ENLIGHTENED MESSAGES PROPOSED BY THE PRODUCERS.

Sub-argument 1: As an example of an enlightened message, the producers say the prince is looking for a soul mate but then the film shows him falling in love with her at first sight while later he says he loves her for what she is. I think this is a contradiction.

//Add Specific Examples//

Sub-argument 2: As another example of an enlightened message that ends up being contradicted, the producers say that the new Cinderella takes control of her life. She is supposed to be a woman who has the power to shape her own destiny. But then she needs magic and good looks to succeed.

//Add Specific Examples//

SUPPORTING ARGUMENT 2: I BELIEVE THAT NDC FAILS TO REVISE SOME OF THE HARMFUL STEREOTYPES THAT WERE PRESENT IN THE ORIGINAL VERSIONS.

Sub-argument 1: As an example of an old message that has not been changed from the original, I believe the film shows the same limitations placed on women as the old Cinderella. The only thing any woman in the NDC has to look forward to is marriage. And this includes Cinderella.

//Add Specific Examples//

Sub-Argument 2: In a similar fashion, I believe the film also continues portray women as gold diggers.

//Add Specific Examples//

Sub-Argument 3: Another example of an old message that has not been changed from the original is the film's treatment of the stepmother and stepsisters. They are evil/bad because they are ugly and unattractive.

//Add Specific Examples//