Feedback for position statements, story questions and paragraph assignment-Things to work on

1. Providing specific reasons, examples and explanations to prove your point.
2. Remember to ask these questions when determining your reasons, examples and explanations.

To find a reason ask: Why is this opinion true?

To find a specific example ask: What proof do I have that would support the reason I have given for my opinion? (Also ask how do I know it supports it to check and see if your example is specific and actually helps prove your opinion )

To figure out an explanation ask: Why does the reason I have given and the example I have used support the opinion that I am trying to prove?

1. Examples need to be specific and provide proof of your reason.
	1. Examples need to be specific and relate to the reason and opinion you are trying to prove. Do not use generalizations.
	2. Quotations used for examples need to be connected to your argument. They need context. You should never start a sentence with a quotation. There should always be a lead in that connects it to your argument. Quotes shouldn’t just float around in your paragraph.

Here are some words you can try and use to create lead-ins for quotes:

Acknowledges, comments, describes, maintains, reports, adds, compares, disputes, notes, responds, admits, concedes, emphasizes, observes, shows, agrees, confirms, endorses, points out, states, argues, contends, illustrates, reasons, suggests, asserts, declares, implies, refutes, summarizes, claims, denies, insists, rejects, writes, defines, points out, posits, delineates, presents, advances, discloses, proposes, affirms, discounts, purports, reasons, alludes, documents, recounts, explains, reflects, expresses, attests, extrapolates, reiterates, characterizes, grants, relates, chronicles, highlights, remarks, comments, reports, implies, concludes, indicates, reveals, concurs, insists, states, negates, supports, creates, notes, theorizes, declares, observes, verifies

Integration of quote example:

This: In the story, the author provides an observation of the princess’ jealousy by giving us a glimpse into her thoughts and how “with all the intensity of the savage blood transmitted…she hated the woman who blushed and trembled behind that silent door “.

Not this: It is obvious that the princess was jealous. “with all the intensity of the savage blood transmitted…she hated the woman who blushed and trembled behind that silent door “.

1. Explanations need to show how your reason and example prove your point.
	1. Explanations need to be specific to the question you are answering and they need to provide proof of your reason. If they don’t, they don’t belong in the paragraph.
	2. Without explanation, examples are pointless. Your argument is not finished and your point will not be made. You cannot assume someone will come to the same conclusion as you from the reason and example you use. You must make the connection for them.
	3. If after reading your paragraph there are “why” questions left unanswered about your reasons or examples that support your opinion, you have not explained your argument fully.
2. Be succinct. Get to the point without a lot of wordiness. Don’t use plot, generalizations, or rhetoric as filler.

Only use details from the plot when it is necessary to prove your opinion. Otherwise do not use them.

1. Do not use “I” statements in formal writing. – ie. I think, I believe, in my opinion, in this essay I will, etc.
2. Make sure you have answered the question you have been asked.
3. Topic sentences need to state the main idea of your paragraph and capture the reader’s interest. They should not include any reasons, examples or explanation.
4. In a paragraph, details about the story, and the author should not be more than a sentence in length. More is allowable in an essay.
5. Do not argue conflicting points in a paragraph. Paragraphs should have one main idea.
6. Without organization your point becomes unfocussed and unclear.
	1. Paragraphs must be organized in a logical way. Connections must be made between reasons, examples and explanations.
	2. If you organize your paragraph with your first reason, example and explanation, followed by your second reason, example and explanation you must connect the specific examples and explanations to the reasons you have given.
	3. If you organize your paragraph with both reasons first, then the examples for each must follow and connections must be made to the reasons given. The same holds true for the explanations.
7. Your paragraphs must stay on topic. If something is in your paragraph that does not help you prove your point then it shouldn’t be there.
8. Transitions help the reader move from one thought to the other and can help create connections between reasons, example and explanations.

Grammar notes

Watch for run-on sentences, sentence fragments, awkward phrasing, spelling and tense agreement. Make sure of your word choices and try to improve level of vocabulary.