**Sample essay brainstorm chart**

**Introduction**

Opening statement: Shrek is a movie about an ogre who rescues a princess, falls in love and lives happily ever after.

Thesis statement: This movie that teaches us many life lessons

Main idea #1: People should never judge others before getting to know them.

Main idea #2: No one is better off on their own.

Main idea #3: True beauty lies within a person.

Concluding statement: In short, Shrek teaches the audience all about life.

**Body Para #1-** Topic sent.: One lesson this movie teaches us is that people should never judge others before getting to know them.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Reason/category | Example | Explanation |
| 1. the way other characters judge Shrek. | 1. Shrek seems mean and scary - yells at people,- but he cares-protects/helps friends | 1. not mean but, -wouldn’t figured out if they had judged him by first impression. |
| 2. Donkey | 2. at first Donkey seems cowardly, -afraid to help against dragon,-but risks his life to help | 2. demonstrates an inner courage –not obvious from our first encounter |
| 3. Princess Fiona. | 3. first acts arrogantly - find out later –afraid someone will discover curse- find out she is not like that when she shares love of Shrek | 3. not the stand-offish person she appeared to be at first but a very compassionate person. |

Conc. Sent.:Consequently, through the actions of these characters in the movie we are shown that our first impressions of others should not be used to judge them.

**Body Para #2-**Topic sent.:A second lesson shown to us in the movie is that no one is better off being alone.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Reason/category | Example | Explanation |
| 1. Shrek tries to scare other people | 1. afraid t they will reject him; later finds out they love him despite his flaws, like Fiona loving him as an ogre | 1. realizes that he cannot truly be happy without the love of others, and therefore is better off not alone. |
| 2. how Shrek treats Donkey’s offer of friendship | 2. treats Donkey as an annoyance, - - realizes that Donkey -always there to help him despite how Shrek treats him. | 2. realizes he is better off having friends to help him, rather than being alone. |
| 3. how Princess Fiona deals with her curse | 3. chooses to hide her secret, and deal with it on her own, rather than trust her friends; which almost ends in disaster . | 3. learns that she would have been better off to accept the help of her friends, rather than try to do things on her own. |

Conclusion sentence: Consequently, we are shown again and again that people are better off together than alone.

**Body Para. #3-**Topic Sent.: A third and final lesson demonstrated to us in Shrek is that true beauty lies within a person.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Reason/category | Example | Explanation |
| 1. character of Shrek. | 1. seems mean/scary person - find out really the opposite, seen in how he protects and cares for his friends. | 1. Shrek’s not truly stereotypical ogre, -true kind and loving nature lies within |
| 2. character of the Princess Fiona | 2. expects people will reject her due to curse - finds out people will love her for who she is, like Shrek | 2. true beauty was within her, not in her outwards appearance because Shrek loved her in either form. |
| 3. character of Donkey | 3. Shrek’s opinion of Donkey changes annoying, to admiration and appreciation | 3. that Shrek learns that Donkey, despite outwards appearances, is the very epitome of a true friend |

Conc.Sent.: Consequently, the movie shows us that it is only by looking past the outside that we can truly see what a person’s value is.

**Conclusion** (basically same as introduction for main ideas- just restated with different wording)

Restate Thesis statement: In conclusion, it is obvious that the movie Shrek teaches its’ audience a whole host of life lessons.

Main idea #1: we are taught not to judge someone before we know their true nature.

Main idea #2: we learn that no one is better off alone.

Main idea #3: we are shown that true beauty lies within a person, not on the outside

Concluding statement:Therefore, one can conclude that the movie Shrek is definitely worth watching, for both quality entertainment and some real-life education.

**Sample Essay- Thesis statement- Shrek teaches us many life lessons**.

(Items in brackets) indicate the part of each paragraph/essay that line represents, **Items in bold** indicate possible phrases to use to introduce your reasons, examples and explanations*, Items* *underlined and in italics* indicate where your reasons, examples and explanations could be placed into the essay. Remember when you are writing your essay it should be written in paragraphs, not bulleted points.

# Introduction

* (Opening statement) Shrek **is a movie about** *an ogre who rescues a princess, falls in love and lives happily ever after.*
* (Thesis statement) *This movie teaches us many life lessons.*
* (Main reason #1). **First of all**, *People should never judge others before getting to know them.*
* (Main reason #2) **Secondly**, *no one is better off on their own.*
* (Main reason #3) **Lastly,** *true beauty lies within a person.*
* (Concluding statement) (restate thesis in different way) **In short**, *Shrek teaches the audience all about life.*

## Body Paragraph #1

* (Topic sentence) (link first main idea with thesis) **One** *lesson that this movie teaches us is that people should never judge others before getting to know them.*
* (Reason/category #1) **First of all**, *we see this by the way other characters judge Shrek*.
* (Example #1) **For example**, *Shrek appears to be mean and scary because he yells at people, however, we later see him protecting and helping his friends which shows that he actually cares about people, such as when he lets them stay at his house.*
* (Explanation #1) **Since this is the case**, *the audience finds out that Shrek is not as mean as he first appears, which one would not have figured out if they had judged him by their first impression.*
* (Reason/category#2) **A second** **character that supports this is** *Donkey.*
* (Example #2) **For instance**, *at first Donkey appears quite cowardly, because he is afraid to help Shrek against the dragon, however, despite his fear, Donkey risks his life to help Shrek rescue Fiona.*
* (Explanation #2) **Therefore,** *despite outward appearances, Donkey demonstrates, through his actions, an inner courage that would not have been obvious from our first encounter with him.*
* (Reason/category #3) **A third** **character that demonstrates** this is *the Princess Fiona.*
* (Example #3) **To illustrate this** **one has to look at** *how Fiona appears to act arrogantly towards others, for instance when she tells Shrek and Donkey to leave her alone at night; however, we find out later that she does this because she is afraid they will discover her secret curse.*
* (Explanation #3) **As a result** **one realizes** *that Fiona is not the stand-offish person she appeared to be at first but a very loving person.*
* (Conclusion sentence) **Consequently**, *through the actions of these characters in the movie we are shown that our first impressions of others might not always be correct and therefore should not be used to judge them.*

## Body Paragraph #2

* (Topic sentence) (link first main idea with thesis) **A second** *lesson shown to us in the movie is that no one is better off being alone.*
* (Reason/category #1) **First of all**, *we are shown this lesson through the way Shrek tries to scare other people away.*
* (Example #1) **For example**, *Shrek tries to scare others away because he is afraid that they will reject him if he lets them get too close ; however, he later finds out they love him despite his flaws, such as Fiona loving him even though he is an ogre .*
* (Explanation #1)**Since this is the case**, *Shrek realizes that he cannot truly be happy without the love of others, and therefore is better off not alone.*
* (Reason/category#2)**A second way this is shown** *is through how Shrek treats Donkey’s offer of friendship.*
* ( Example #2) **For instance**, *Shrek continuously rejects Donkey as an annoyance, however, he comes to realize that Donkey has always been there to help him when he is in trouble, despite how Shrek treats him.*
* (Explanation #2) **Therefore it becomes obvious**, *to Shrek that he is better off having friends to help him, rather than being alone.*
* (Reason/category#3) **A third way we are shown this is** *through how Princess Fiona deals with her curse.*
* (Example #3) **One example that illustrate*s* this is** *how she chooses to hide her secret, and deal with it on her own, rather than trust her friends*; *which almost ends in disaster .*
* (Explanation #3) **As a result one can see**, *that Fiona learns that she would have been better off to accept the help of her friends, rather than try to do things on her own.*
* (Conclusion sentence) **Consequently**, we are shown again and again that people are better off together than alone.

## Body Paragraph #3

* (Topic sentence) (link first main idea with thesis) **A third and final** lesson demonstrated to us in Shrek is that true beauty lies within a person.
* (Reason/category#1) **First of all**, *this is shown to us through Shrek.*
* (Example #1) **For example**, *outwardly, Shrek seems very mean and scary ; however we find out that his true nature is really the opposite, which can be seen in how he protects and cares for his friends.*
* (Explanation #1) **Since this is the case,** *the audience is shown that Shrek’s character is not truly the stereotypical ogre, but rather that he has a kind and loving soul*.
* (Reason/category#2) **A second way we are taught this lesson is** *through the character of the Princess Fiona.*
* (Example #2) **For instance**, *Fiona expects that people will reject her due to her curse,; however in the end she finds out that any one that matters will love her for who she is, not how she looks, as can be seen when she finds out Shrek loves her.*
* (Explanation #2) **Therefore it is obvious**, *that the true beauty of her nature was within her, not in her outwards appearance because Shrek loved her in either form.*
* (Reason/category#3) **A third demonstration of this lesson in the movie is** *seen in the character of Donkey.*
* (Example #3) **To illustrate one can look at** *how Shrek’s opinion of Donkey changes over time. At first Shrek considers him annoying, but over time, through Donkey’s actions, realizes that Donkey has admirable qualities that outweigh this.*
* (Explanation #3) **As a result one can see**, *that Shrek learns that Donkey, despite outwards appearances, is the very epitome of a true friend on the inside.*
* (Conclusion sentence) **Consequently,** *the movie shows us that it is only by looking past the outside that we can truly see what a person’s value is.*

# Conclusion

* (restate thesis) **In conclusion**, it is obvious that *the movie Shrek teaches its’ audience a whole host of life lessons.*
* (Main idea #1) **In the first place**, *we are taught not to judge someone before we know their true nature.*
* (Main idea #2) **Secondly**, *we learn that no one is better off alone.*
* (Main idea #3) **Thirdly**, *we are shown that true beauty lies within a person, not on the outside.*
* (Conclusion statement.) **Therefore, one can conclude****that** *the movie Shrek is definitely worth watching, for both quality entertainment and some real-life education.*