**TIQA SAMPLE PARAGRAPHS**

**[Attention Getter]:** “[People ask me what I do in winter when there's no baseball,” wrote Rogers Hornsby, a 2nd-baseman known as the “Rajah.” “I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring.](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/r/rogershorn104218.html)” With a batting average of .358—second only to Ty Cobb—Hornsby played 23 years in the Major Leagues and managed two separate baseball teams. When he retired, he still had the same irrational love for baseball that an 8-year-old boy brings to his first game. **[Necessary Information]:** If W.P. Kinsella’s fiction is any indication, then it seems he shares that same irrational love too. Nowhere is that more evident than in “The Thrill of the Grass,” a story about a middle-aged man who sneaks into a ballpark to replace its astro turf with read sod. Kinsella’s narrator recruits a partner for his crusade to restore the ballpark to its natural state, but he is surprised to find that there is an entire army of men just like him. Night after night, defying all reason, these men cut away pieces of their lawn to donate to the cause of the ballpark. Why do they do this? **[Thesis]:** **Because, for these men, baseball—and the ground upon which it’s played—represent not only a sport, but their childhood dreams.**

HOW DID I GRAB THE READER’S ATTENTION?

HOW DID I USE MY INTRO TO GIVE THE READER NECESSARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE STORY?

WHICH DETAILS DID I SHARE OR LEAVE OUT?

**TIQA Example paragraph #1:**

**Topic sentence:** One of the first facts the reader learns about this protagonist is that he once dreamed of playing baseball. He still carries this dream with him today, even though he knows it is too late to fulfill it.

**Introduce Quote:** As he is driving home from work one night, bemoaning the fact that a recent baseball strike means he cannot enjoy a game, the narrator considers his youth.

**Quote:** “I was a failed shortstop,” he writes. “As a young man, I saw myself diving to my left, graceful as a toppling tree, fielding high grounders like a cat leaping for butterflies, bracing my right foot and tossing to first…” The narrator describes the feeling of connecting to the ball with his glove and then goes on to say, “I dreamed of being inducted into the Hall of Fame” (187-188).

 **Analysis (and tie back to thesis):** This shows that the narrator still dreams about baseball and associates it with the lost opportunities of his youth. Kinsella specifically uses the word “dreams” in this narrative, as he does the word “failed,” and it is no accident. The narrator can see himself as a shortstop in his mind’s eye, and the vividness with which he sees this image shows that he still thinks of this frequently. The dream is still with him, and baseball its symbol.

WHAT WORDS DID I USE TO SIGNAL I WAS STARTING TO GIVE EVIDENCE?

HOW DID I BREAK UP MY QUOTE SO THAT IT WAS MANAGABLE FOR THE READER?

WHAT WORDS DID I USE TO SIGNAL I WAS GOING TO ANALYZE MY EVIDENCE?

**Example paragraph #2: Label the TIQA parts. What’s missing?**

For instance, when he begins to form the idea of replacing the astro-turf with real grass, he visits a man at his skyscraper office. The narrator has seen this man many times at various baseball games and believes, in his heart, that this man shares his feelings. “I have an idea,” he says, and then asks, “What do you think about artificial turf?” (190). The man grunts in reply, clearly just as disgusted by the substance as the narrator, and the two hatch their plan. But, as they discuss their favorite places to sit at the ballpark, the corporate man asks the narrator a question. “And what it is it that you do there, alone with the pigeons?” The narrator answers succinctly, but it is more than enough. “I dream,” he says simply (190).

**Conclusion Paragraph (RRS)**

**[Restate Thesis]:** For the middle-aged men in Kinsella’s story, baseball symbolizes something much bigger than just a game; it symbolizes their lost childhood dreams. So, even though they have to break and enter, trespass property, dismantle their front lawns, and risk their wives’ wrath, they do the unthinkable and restore a baseball field to its natural state. In doing so, they reclaim their youth.

**[Review Examples:**] Kinsella’s choice of language—from the narrator’s memories about being a failed shortstop, to his conversation with his partner in crime, to [insert third example here], show that baseball is inextricably bound with these dreams.

**[So What?]:** It has been said many times that baseball is the all-American pastime. If Kinsella is right and baseball is, in fact, symbolic of one’s childhood dreams, then it’s not hard to see why. America was and still is the bold new land where immigrants come to fulfill the dreams they dare not consider in their own countries. Not just anyone can do this. It means working hard, taking risks, and dreaming big.

Just like the men in Kinsella’s story.

how did i reveiew my three pieces of evidence?

how did i use mla citation?

how did i make this essay relevant to someone who doesn't care about this story?