

Reader Response Sample Paragraph

(TS) Some believe that Norman Bates' mental illness does not make him the villain of the story; however, his actions and how he behaves to the situations around him make him the villain of the story. (CD) In the film, Norman Bates disposes the body and all the belongings of the robber, Marion Crane, by putting them all in the trunk of their car and sinking it to the bottom of a mud pit. But when he does this the car does not submerge all the way; which makes him look around nervously, until the car finally sinks all the way making him smile contently, knowing the job was done. (COM 2 & 3) Norman Bates was calm and articulate with all his actions to remove any shred of evidence that Marion Crane ever came to the motel that he runs. He does it so fast and skillfully that it is not hard to believe that this is not his first time doing this. His intense need to get rid of any proof of his crime shows that Norman Bates is consciously aware that what had happened was wrong. But instead of turning himself in or admitting his guilt, he does everything in his power to relieve himself of any wrongdoing. These are not the actions of a victim. A victim would feel remorse or guilt in what they have done. Even if they are not innocent, a victim still has enough humanity in them to care; a villain, however, does not. What makes a villain, a villain, is a lack of compassion for life. Now it is worth mentioning that this is not always the case; a great villain can be made from someone who cares a great deal about life, but it must be twisted in some uncompromising way so that they are the villain and not just an antagonist. But in Norman Bates' case, he has made it very clear on what he thinks about life through his taxidermies of birds and his actions. What he thinks is precious may remain pristine in death, all else may rot. With this Norman Bates has cemented himself as not just the antagonist in this story, but it's villain as well. (PT) But some may say that Norman Bates is not the villain of this story, and is actually just a victim of circumstance. (CD) This argument is made due to the twist at the end of the movie, where it is revealed that Norman

Your basic argument that builds on the evidence that you choose from the text/film.

COM 2- Be sure to make your claim very clear and explain why you feel the way you do.

COM 3 – Add something to the conversation. Go past “this says that, this shows that.”

(PT) Transition to the counter.

(CD) that supports the counter.

Bates has a split personality. The other personality is that of his mother and that personality is the one who committed all the murders that take place in the film. *Now this would seem to absolve him from the murders, because he was not consciously aware of them happening, but this is not so. At the end of the film, after Norman Bates is caught, a psychiatrist pieces it together and spells it out for the audience. The personality of Norman Bates' mother was created to help him cope with the fact that he had killed his own mother out of jealousy, this personality is violent and jealous as a result. The mother personality is the one who murders the victims in the movie, while Norman Bates is left to clean up the evidence. Norman Bates split his mind in two to save himself from coming to terms with reality. But by doing so, Norman Bates had created a being that is consumed by jealousy for anyone that gets too close to them; and that jealousy fuels a murderous intent. Although it is in fact the personality of his deceased mother that is committing the murders we see in the movie, the psychiatrist confirms that Norman Bates had murdered his own mother as a child. So, saying that the mother personality is the only murderer is a falsity. It is also noted by the psychiatrist that Norman Bates acts as an accomplice to his "mother's" murders, cleaning them up as if they never happened. Him being an accomplice to these murders does not clear him of any guilt, even if he believes it is not himself doing the murders, he is consciously aware that his "mother" has committed the murder and he did nothing. His active compliance to help his "mother" with the murders makes him just as guilty. It is quite possible if Norman Bates was not complicit with helping his "mother" in the murders, and was instead an uncooperative second party, he could have been seen as a victim. (CLS) But due to him being an active accomplice in these murders, he has resigned his fate as being half of a whole villain.*

Counter-argument should be a fair discussion of the opposing side of the argument.

Your rebuttal to the counter.

This should be about the same amount of text as the counter.

CLS – In a reader response, you will have a conclusion sentence.