PARAGRAPH #1

Step 1: Introduce the texts, their authors, titles, and their common topic:

For example: Tanith Lee’s “Wolfland” and Angela Carter’s “The Company of Wolves” present us with a modern version of the fairy tale “Little Red Riding Hood” which also modernizes the female protagonist.

Step 2: Give background/context to narrow the focus and paint a picture of the who, what, when, where, how. (For example, identify the main objects and what character or characters they are associated with and a bit of their stories/background OR what women and how they’re portrayed generally.) Use this step to lead to and prepare for the claim but don’t give it away.

For example: Thus through the lens of gender criticism, Little Red Riding Hood is now re-envisioned and reinvented, no longer a naïve, innocent child but a young adult bursting confidently onto the scene. In “Wolfland,” Lisel is downright spoiled, off to see her grandmother about a promised inheritance, which ultimately transforms her into a powerful (were)wolf, and in “The Company of Wolves,” the unnamed protagonist is not sent but herself insists on making the journey, ending up willingly in the wolf’s arms.

Step 3: Present the claim (one specific, unified argument both texts make about the topic).

For example: Both texts insist that we need to change our perception and treatment of women, seeing them not as helpless victims but instead as autonomous beings.

SOMEWHERE IN THE INTRO, YOU NEED TO INTRODUCE THE LITERARY CRITICISM BY NAME. I’ve placed it at the beginning of Step 2, but it could also come as part of the claim or even in the opening sentence. (See the sample essays at the back of each literary criticism chapter for more examples.)
BODY PARAGRAPH(S):
You can take several approaches.

TYPE A:

Step 1: Present a reason (supporting argument) both texts make about the topic.

For example: In both texts, the female protagonists’ boldness is unmistakable.

Step 2: Provide and interpret/analyze evidence from both texts (1 text & example at a time). Yes, you need specific evidence, including quotations, and in-text citation for all evidence from specific pages in the texts, whether you quote, paraphrase, or summarize.

Step 3: Connect back to and develop the claim. I would explain how boldness relates to autonomy, how and why it’s necessary in order to attain autonomy, and what boldness reveals about or adds to our understanding of the meaning and importance of autonomy.

TYPE B:

ONE PARAGRAPH:
Step 1: Present a reason (supporting argument) just one text makes about the topic

Step 2: Provide and interpret/analyze evidence from the one text

Step 3: Connect back to and develop the claim.

NEXT PARAGRAPH:
Step 1: Present a reason (supporting argument) the other text(s) makes about the topic

Step 2: Provide and interpret/analyze evidence from that text.

Step 3: Connect back to and develop the claim.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

You may also do a combination: one paragraph/reason about one text, another one about all, etc.

CHOOSE A if the Reason is exactly the same for all texts.

CHOOSE B if the reasons are a bit or a lot different from each other.

IN GENERAL:

Do NOT separate into separate paragraphs discussions of the same reason but different texts.

Avoid organizing your paper to discuss everything about one text in the first half of the paper and then everything about the second text in the second half of the paper. This organization fails to synthesize your argument or analysis and ends up merely joining two separate papers into one.