

CIRCLE DIAGRAM FOR ESSAYS INSTRUCTIONS

This is the outline for your essay in graphic organizer form. It is simply meant to help you to organize your essay by giving you an opportunity to get the main ideas on paper. You will use it to write your essay.

1. **HOW TO FILL IN THE FIRST CIRCLE.** Decide what your opinion of the book, *The Double Helix*, is. That opinion should be a SIMPLE, CONCISE sentence. No details should be included, but the answer should still be particular to the question asked. A good answer: “The Double Helix proves that the treatment of women in science is much better now than it was in the past.” Or: “Scientific research is complicated and in many cases filled with serendipity.” A bad answer: “The Double Helix is a good book.”

Put your opinion in the top circle. This is your THESIS STATEMENT.

2. **HOW TO FILL IN THE SECOND LEVEL OF CIRCLES.** There are a number of ways you can fill in the second level. For example, you might write a *DEVELOPMENTAL* argument:

FIRST CIRCLE: Rosalind Franklin was the only woman studying DNA with X-ray crystallography in the 1950’s.

SECOND CIRCLE: Even though her crystallography work was first-rate, she was not treated as an equal.

THIRD CIRCLE: As a result, she closely guarded her work and was often misunderstood and thought to be testy, close-minded and unwilling to share her data or just a misguided feminist.

You might also write a *TYPES* argument:

FIRST CIRCLE: Women in science were uncommon in the 1950s.

SECOND CIRCLE: Women had to work harder to prove themselves as scientists.

THIRD CIRCLE: Women like Rosalind Franklin were not appreciated until late in their careers or until near or after her death.

3. **HOW TO FILL IN THE BOXES.** This is the easiest part! You go through your book *The Double Helix*, your textbook and your lecture notes, and find direct quotes (no editing or changing any of the words) that prove your second level of circles. Just write in the quote and make sure to note where you found the quote. Also, remember: the quote shouldn’t be a full paragraph! A good quote is usually one or two sentences at the most. You must have at least one quote from *The Double Helix* for every reason you give in the second level of circles.

Now you are ready to write your paper!