Commentary about the quote or concrete detail, also called a warrant, analyzes the evidence in relation to your claim. Commentary provides your interpretation of the quote. In your commentary, be sure to discuss all the ways in which your quote shows something about the claim you make in that body paragraph. Avoid saying, “In this quotation…” or “this quote shows…” You really don’t need this. Assume the reader knows you are discussing quotes from the book. Focus on writing warrants to explain the assumptions that make you think the information you have given reinforces your case. Remember, quotes don’t speak for themselves; if you want a reader to accept a quote as evidence that proves a claim, you must spell out how or why the quote you’ve selected supports your argument. (Helpful hint: In your body paragraph, you should have twice as much commentary as evidence/concrete detail. In other words, for every sentence of evidence/concrete detail, you should have at least two sentences of commentary.)

Here is an example of what the first half of a body paragraph might look like.

(Claim) As Christopher begins his quest to find his mother in London, he experiences the most important part of the second phase of the hero’s journey, and he descends into what Joseph Campbell calls “The Abyss,” meaning that he is now facing his most terrifying fears face-to-face without anyone to help or protect him.

(Context) After some early difficulty, he manages to locate the local train station, but he is completely unsure about how to get himself a ticket and make his way into a London-bound train. Because of his autism, he is too insecure to approach strangers in the station and ask for help, and he sinks into a paralyzing panic. In typical fashion, he begins doing “maths” in his head to calm himself, unaware of the passage of time.

(Evidence) A police officer approaches Christopher, saying “The lady at the café says you’ve been here 2-and-a-half hours, and when she tried to talk to you were in a complete trance” (148).

(Commentary) Christopher is clearly showing signs of distress and fear as he navigates his abyss. He is so overwhelmed with the clamor and bustle of the station, that he must sit for hours and calm himself by doing the math puzzles he knows help him relax.

(Next the writer should include a transition sentence, and then write a second “chunk” of CQC—Contentx, Quotation, Commentary—to fully prove the claim of this body paragraph.

Practice: Using three important claims from your outline, and the evidence you have selected to illustrate these three claims, practice writing warrants for each piece of evidence (each quote) on the back of this worksheet. Be sure you use MLA format for inserting your evidence.
Claim #1:

Evidence for Claim #1:

Warrant for Claim #1:

Claim #2

Evidence for Claim #2

Warrant for Claim #2

Claim #3

Evidence for Claim #3

Warrant for Claim #3