

'Crash' and guns – Filmanalyse und Klausurvorbereitung

– Mögliche Klausurfragen –

Please note: In an Abitur test the main text or its topic and the Analysis tasks are usually connected. This means that in Analysis you could be asked to compare aspects from the text with a cartoon, a picture, a diagram, or an aspect from either *Half Broke Horses* or *Crash*.

The Composition tasks, however, are usually not directly linked to the main text or its topic. Therefore, not many Composition tasks like the one below would also refer to a main text about gun control. The task given here is only to illustrate what a Composition task linking guns, *Half Broke Horses* and *Crash* might look like.

Click [here](#) for help with linking phrases in both Analysis as well as Composition.

Analysis

"Summarize the various responses to the shooting incident mentioned in the text and compare it with the way guns are dealt with in *Crash*."

Click [here](#) for help on how to structure your essay.

Click [here](#) to check whether you have included all relevant aspects.

Composition

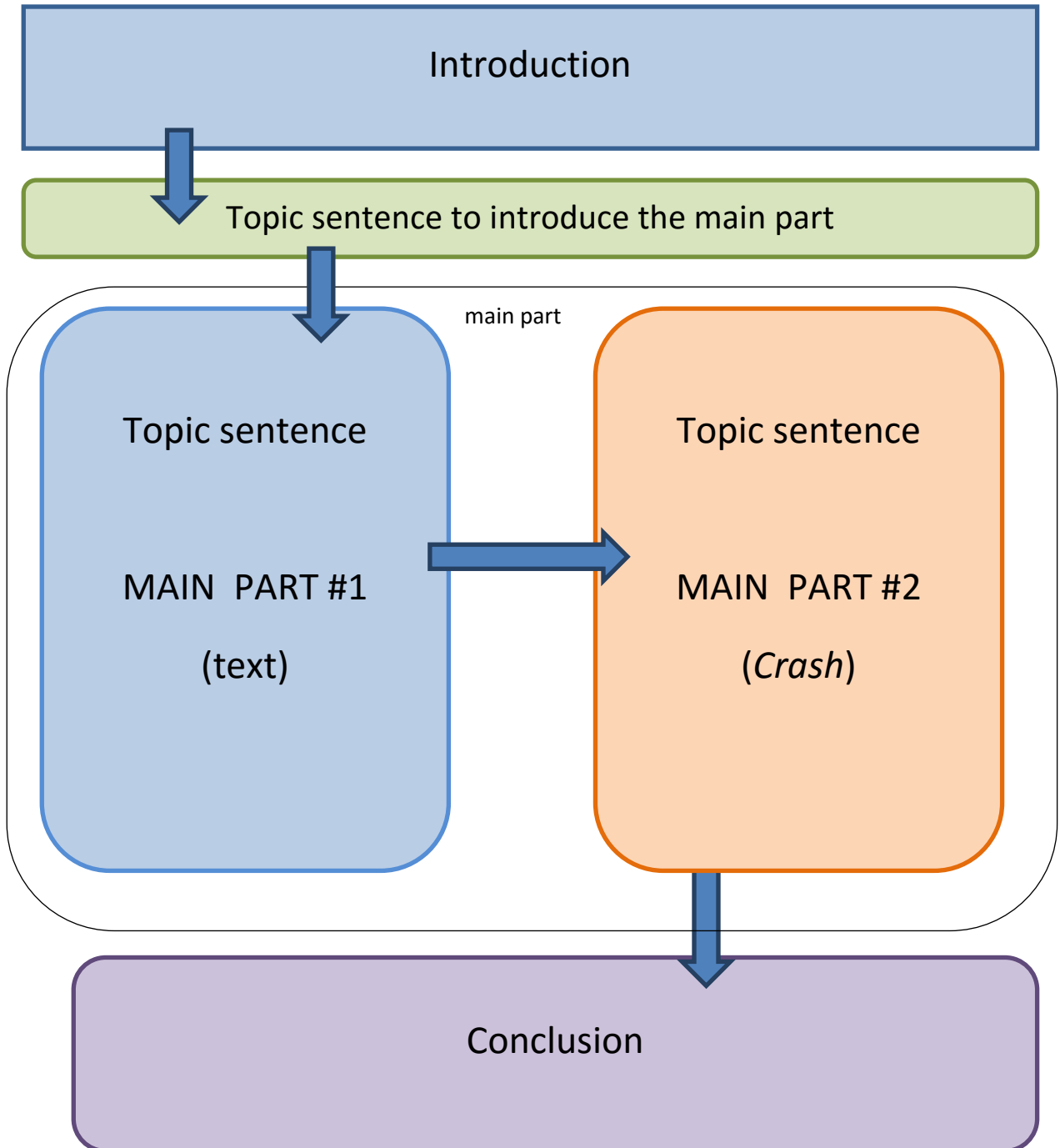
"Compare Lily's attitude towards firearms with the statements about guns that become apparent in *Crash*!"

Click [here](#) for help on how to structure your essay.

Click [here](#) to check whether you have included all relevant aspects.

Analysis: Structural help

Task: "Summarize the various responses to the shooting incident mentioned in the text and compare it with the way guns are dealt with in *Crash*."



Analysis: Solutions

Task: "Summarize the various responses to the shooting incident mentioned in the text and compare it with the way guns are dealt with in *Crash*."

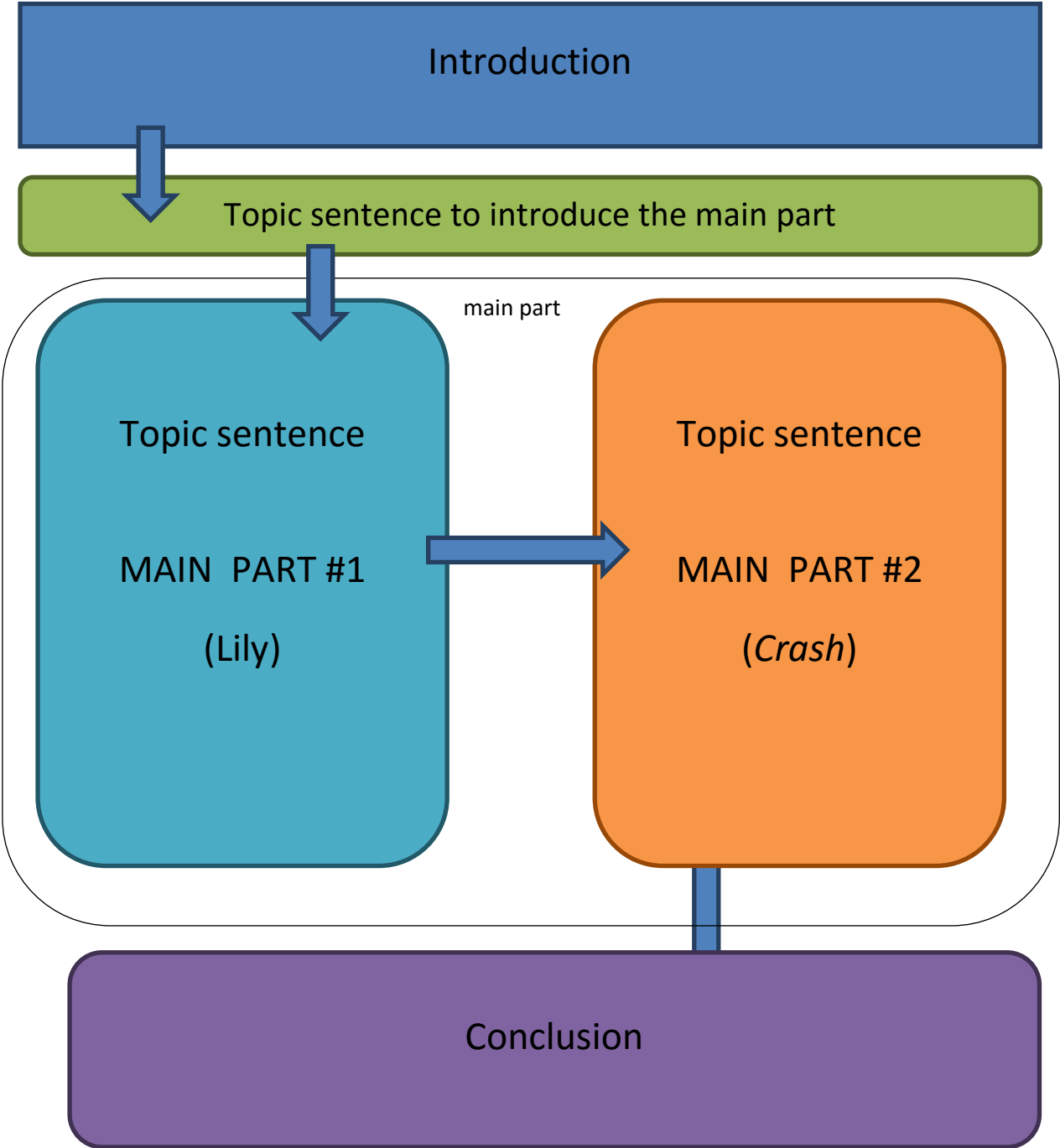
Your essay could mention the following aspects:

(Abstände zwischen Absätzen "3 Punkte nach" für angenehmeres Lesen)

text	<i>Crash</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public reaction to the shooting incident is overwhelmingly negative, but for different reasons, depending on people's attitude towards guns • gun control advocates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ armed citizens far more dangerous than petty criminals like shoplifters ○ shooting at the shoplifter is a much bigger crime than shoplifting itself ○ the police should have been stricter with the woman • gun rights advocates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ generally support the right to carry guns but believe the woman overreacted (seems to have forgotten what she was trained to do) ○ blame the woman for putting gun owners in a bad light ○ she shouldn't have tried to enforce the law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using a gun to uphold the law isn't covered in the film • people use guns to defend themselves (Tom Hanson, Farhad's reason for buying the revolver) • guns as a means of asserting oneself (Farhad vs. Daniel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ both times, the situation escalates (Peter is dead / Daniel and/or Lara would have been killed) ⇒ implicit messages: If you have a gun, you will use it. And using your gun won't really help.
<p>Conclusion:</p> <p>While a large part of the US population (even a majority now) sees nothing wrong with the right to carry firearms, other Americans as well as the film <i>Crash</i> express concern about the dangers incumbent in this right.</p> <p>Ironically, the shooting incident seems to prove <i>Crash</i> right: If you have a gun you will use it.</p>	

Composition: Structural help

Task: "Compare Lily's attitude towards firearms with the statements about guns that become visible in *Crash!*"



Composition: Solutions

Task: "Compare Lily's attitude towards firearms with the statements about guns that become visible in *Crash!*"

Your essay could mention the following aspects:

Lily in <i>Half Broke Horses</i>	<i>Crash</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lily grows up on the frontiers where guns are both commonplace and often used (for hunting, self-defence, deterrence etc.) • Lily receives her personal gun at a fairly young age → • her gun helps Lily to master dangerous situations (her travel companion trying to rob her, the angry drunkard at the garage) • to Lily, a gun is an instrument that helps her to be self-reliant, especially since she seems to believe that you cannot trust the police • BUT Lily also uses a gun in a situation that might have been resolved without a weapon (Uncle Eli) • Lily keeps a small handgun in her classroom in order to protect her schoolchildren → dangerous, maybe even paranoid <p>⇒ Lily has a positive attitude towards guns. There are many situations in which her decision to resort to her gun are justified. However, there are also situations in which using a gun is debatable or clearly inappropriate (e.g. in the classroom).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • guns are easy to come by – even for a man like Farhad, who knows absolutely nothing about firearms and has a volatile temper • Farhad claims he wants to have the gun to protect his family and his shop, but he brings the revolver when he seeks out Daniel → he intends to assert himself with the gun • Farhad fires his gun in a fit of rage → an irascible person without a gun is just aggressive, an irascible person with a gun can be lethal! • Later on, Farhad comes to his senses and realizes what he would have done. He has his moment of catharsis and asks his daughter to take the gun away → He has understood how dangerous weapons can be. • Tom Hanson keeps his gun ready in his car. When he feels threatened by Peter he grabs his gun and shoots. His assessment of the situation is based on fear and prejudice → he believes that using his gun will help him to remain in control of the situation <p>⇒ Both cases highlight the dangers connected with firearms; critical attitude → If you have a gun you will use it.</p>

Conclusion:

Lily never questions the necessity of having a gun. She has the right to have a gun and she makes use of this right, full stop. *Crash*, on the other hand, focuses on the dangers connected with firearms. Although *Crash* doesn't make an explicit statement the film seems to side with gun control advocates.