-How To Write An Effect Statement-

An Effect Statement is a one- to two-sentence statement that shows how the ideas in a passage of text, when presented using the literary techniques found in that passage, create certain effects in the reader. An Effect Statement can be shown like this:

IDEA + TECHNIQUE = EFFECT ON THE READER

Let's take a look at a couple of examples from the texts that we have read thus far:

1)

IDEA	+	TECHNIQUE	=	EFFECT ON THE READER
Plato grapples with notions of Truth in his *Allegory of the Den.*		Plato uses a *didactic dialogue* between Socrates and Glaucon to consider these notions of Truth.		The reader learns that through the play of discourse, i.e., active, sometimes adversarial conversation, that one can reach and understand new levels of truth.

Written into a Statement:

In *The Allegory of the Den*, Plato's consideration of Truth through his use of the didactic dialogue between Socrates and Glaucon reveals to the reader that playful, sometimes adversarial, conversation between a teacher and student can lead to greater understandings of Truth.

2)

IDEA	+	TECHNIQUE	=	EFFECT ON THE READER
O.E. Parker—tattooed, low-class, foul-mouthed—is an unlikely messenger of God		O' Connor uses numerous *Allusions* to the Old Testament of the *Bible*		The reader who understands the Judeo-Christian reference is given the message that anyone, no matter how unlikely, may be a vehicle for revelation of Ultimate Truth.

Written into a Statement:

In Flannery O'Connor's *Parker's Back*, a tattooed, low-class, foul-mouthed O.E. Parker emerges, among numerous allusions to Old Testament prophets, as a tool of God. O'Connor's work is thus suggesting that anyone, no matter how unlikely, may be a vehicle for revelation of Ultimate Truth.

3)

IDEA	+	TECHNIQUE	=	EFFECT ON THE READER
The opening moment of Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* portrays the sudden, inexplicable transformation of Gregor Samsa into a large bug.		This scene seems to be the *climax* of the story (after having read the entire story). Thus, Kafka seems to provide no *exposition* or *rising action.*		Because there is really no explanation as to how or why Gregor has been transformed, the beginning appears absurd, leaving the reader in a state of uncertainty and confusion.

Written into a Statement:
Depriving his reader of exposition or rising action, Franz Kafka opens *The Metamorphosis* with the climax—the transformation of Gregor Samsa into a large bug. Because there is really no explanation as to how or why Gregor has been transformed, the beginning appears absurd, leaving the reader in a state of uncertainty and confusion.

4)

IDEA	+	TECHNIQUE	=	EFFECT ON THE READER
The opening moment of Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* portrays the sudden, inexplicable transformation of Gregor Samsa into a large bug.		Kafka uses a *third person limited omniscient narrative voice* in this passage.		By identifying with Gregor, Kafka sucks in the reader and causes her/him to identify with Gregor and see the world through the eyes of a bug. How is this significant? It effectively makes the reader feel insignificant.

Written into a Statement:
Franz Kafka's use of third person limited omniscient narrative voice in the opening passage of *The Metamorphosis* sucks in the reader and causes her/him to identify with Gregor and see the world through the eyes of a bug; this effectively makes the reader feel insignificant.