**Valley of Ashes passage**

**Possible organizational strategy:**

**Claim**

**TS#1** Description of VoA

**TS#2** Symbolism of description

**Possible claim:** In describing the Valley of Ashes,Fitzgerald creates the image of a dingy, dismal place from which most people cannot escape.

**Sample elements for analysis:**

**Dismal diction:**

Bleak, dimmed, blindness, dimly, crumbly, powdery

Grey ghastly creak, foul

When analyzing the use of this dismal diction, consider statements like this:

\*\*The use of dismal words such as “bleak” “crumbly” “ghastly” and “foul” creates a scene where the hopeless find their lives greyed out among the glam of Manhattan and West/East Egg.\*\*

**Imagery:**

“Men swarm up with leaden spades”

\*\*This place, completely void of color and the vibrant energy of the surrounding areas, contrasts with the experience of the wealthy who hastily pass through the Valley of Ashes—even the road tries to avoid this place. As “men swarm up with leaden spades,” Fitzgerald parallels the monotony of the workers’ dirty manual labor with the hollow, empty lives from which they cannot escape.\*\*