Transition

Topic Sentence

Context

Explanation

Text evidence

Outcome

Counter-argument

Closing sentence

To start, Buck shows heroism through his adoration for Thornton when he accepts the burden of pulling an immense load to win a bet for his master. In the novel, Thornton is challenged with a bet of $1,600 that Buck could not pull the 1,000 pound load on a dog sled 100 yards. This task seems impossible, especially since it normally takes ten sled dogs to pull a load of that size. "He had caught the contagion of the excitement, and he felt that in some way he must do a great thing for John Thornton" (109). Despite the difficulty, Buck is willing and puts effort into the task for his master, and he succeeds. If he were truly barbaric, he would not have done this for his master, would not have cared about his master. In fact, despite his adaptation to the environment and his ability to survive, Buck illustrates only devotion and love for his master, not cruelty or brutality as some critics may suggest. Clearly, Buck is a hero in this instance due to his outstanding achievement, which allows his owner and the partners to pursue their dreams of seeking the lost mine.