**Essay Musts**

1. 5 paragraphs with 5 interesting, thoughtful sentences in each. Each of these sentences have one job to do. See sentence jobs below. (-1 - 5 pts.)
2. Titles ALWAYS italicized. (-1 pt)
3. Quotes always introduced. This means there is never a period immediately before a quote, but rather a comma because you have introduced the quote with your own words and then inserted it after the comma. (-5 pts.)
4. Quotes cited properly. For this class, this is always the chapter # in parenthesis followed by a period. "It was a pleasure to burn" (Chapter 5). (-3 pts.)
5. CI sentence, TS sentence, and Topic Sentences underlined. (-1 pt. each)
6. CI and TS sentences appear as sentence 4 & 5 in introduction (WAL 1). (-2 pts.)
7. Two quotes from the book. One each in a topic paragraph. (-5 pts.)
8. Paragraphs indented. (-1 pt.)
9. Essay double-spaced (-1 pt.)
10. Sentence run-on (-2 pts)
11. Sentence fragment (-2 pts)
12. Conclusion sentence one - strong concluding sentence (-2 pts)
13. Conclusion sentence two - restate TS but worded differently from how it is worded in intro. (-2 pts)
14. Conclusion sentence 3 - 5. Adds a new idea or expands what has been said. NOT a repeat of what was said in the introduction though it might tie into something, such as a quote, used in the introduction. (-1 - 3 pts)
15. Quote from outside source in conclusion - (+3 pts).
16. No contractions (-1)

**Formula for every sentence of any essay:**

**Introduction:**

**sentence 1 - 3**: lead into CI. What is the essay supposed to be about? For example: Setting. Then talk about setting and how it works in books or in this book you are writing about.

**sentence 4 - 5**: CI and TS

CI sentence-what your essay will prove For Example:

CI: "I find myself drawn to this story because of the way it magnifies the importance of the simple things in life."

TS sentence - 3 pieces of proof (topics) For Example:

TS: "Through its example of family love and support, Francie's child-like view of the world around her, and its portrayal of day to day-to-day events, the author unveils a captivating story."

Remember: Your CI and TS are two separate and complete sentences.

**Topic Paragraphs** (Paragraphs 2 -4) You need a quote from the book in 2 of these paragraphs. You cite them by (Chapter #). You NEVER just stick them in the paragraph. You introduce them with your own words.

**Sentence 1**: Topic sentence. A strong topic sentence states the topic and connects it to the CI.

**TS #1**: "One of the simplest, yet most powerful things in life is shown in this book's examples of family love and support."

It would be better to use the same basic sentence for each topic sentence than to try to use variety and miss the point of a CI which is to state topic and connect it to CI.

**Sentences 2-4**: 3 detail sentences which prove your topic sentence. These sentences bring in evidence from the story. They do not tell what happened, but they might provide a detail if it serves to prove your topic sentence.

Here are 3 details

1. Katie's devotion to family
2. Katie's strong character with a quote
3. Katie's selfless love

Next you would write them into thoughtful, formal sentences and use a quote to support or prove one of them.

**Sentence 5**: a concluding sentence which wraps everything up or a transition sentence which introduces or leads reader into next topic.

**Conclusion**

**Sentence 1**: Strong sentence which makes a statement related to CI. For Example: "I found a Tree Grows in Brooklyn to be interesting because of Smith's descriptions of the ordinary activities of life and their importance."

**Sentence 2**: Restate TS sentence but in a different way. In Sample Essay, student does this in sentence #3.

For Example: "Although sometimes taken for granted, the simpleness of a loving family, our childish experiences of life, or the little pleasures we enjoy from day-to-day are an important part of our existence."

**Sentence 3-5**: Bring in a new idea which is related. HERE is an excellent place to bring in an outside quote, something said by someone else.

For Example: "It is a simple, yet profound truth that a healthy adult emerges from a child which has been reared not with wealth and a lot of opportunities, but from a family which faces the challenges of life together and finds joy and meaning in the ordinary. "


As the one who is grading your essays this year, I hope you will see me more as your "editor" than as your judge. Every good writer is thankful for a good editor (because good editors can make even great writers look fantastic!) I will try to give you helpful comments and suggestions to make your good efforts even better. The Lord can use writers today—remember, "the pen is mightier than the sword". Feel free to e-mail me your draft, if you would like some suggestions before you turn in your final essay.

My e-mail: lynndt@foxvalley.net

RULE OF 5 CHECKLIST:

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<th>FAIR</th>
<th>YES/NO</th>
<th>GOOD</th>
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<td>5 Paragraphs?</td>
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<td>Central idea, thesis sentence and topic sentences underlined (or italics)?</td>
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<td>Have you used quotes in at least two topic paragraphs?</td>
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INTRODUCTION:
Opening sentences are interesting engaging, informative, and to the point?

Good (articulate) central idea?

Clear thesis sentence?

BODY:
Good topic sentences which bring in central idea and essay theme?

Good, full development of each point from the thesis sentence?

Accurate information with some insights and good observations?

CONCLUSION:
Sum up major points and restate thesis sentence?

Good final comments, insights, and observations?

OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF:
Good transition from paragraph to paragraph?

Good use of quotes? (must have at least two from novel)

Creative, interesting title?

Does the paper reflect a good understanding of the specific topic (i.e. likes/dislikes, compare/contrast, character, plot, setting, etc.)?