Parts of the Essay **Broken Down** (see pages 23-24 of the Writing Packet)

Introductory Paragraph: Hook, GDT (Gen. Discussion of Topic), Thesis

- **1. HOOK**: This grabs the reader's attention. It can be a question, a brief story, a startling statistic, an interesting fact, or an appropriate and related quote. The most effective ones combine several of these. It must be in 3rd Person Only, on topic, and several sentences.
 - a. (Hook) "We easily forgive [others] those faults that do not affect us ourselves." Why is that?
- 2. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF TOPIC: Here you expand your hook by getting more into your topic. You need to look at both sides of an issue, the opinions people might have on the issue or topic, or just some general information about the topic. This part must connect to the hook and logically lead up to the thesis. It should not use any of the key points in your thesis, will be several sentences long, and is in 3rd Person Only!
 - a. (GDT) Often people can get so angry with another person due to their behavior and/or statements because that frustrating behavior resembles something that they do not like within themselves. Whereas dealing with true friends, people overlook each others' imperfections because they value the special relationship they share together.
- **3. THESIS**: This is the sentence that tells the reader what your paper will discuss. It is the last sentence of your introductory paragraph, it must have three or more specific points, and the points must be specific yet broad enough to be developed into the connected individual body paragraphs. Use this three part FORMULA: (1) (state the topic or key part of the question) (2) BECAUSE OF (3) , , , and

Put your 3 main points (the 3 body paragraph topics to develop) in the blanks.

a. (Thesis) My friends are the most important aspect of my life because they give me undving support, share common interests, and keep me forever laughing.

The Three Body Paragraphs: (Need--TS, 1st Pt., Ex., 2nd Pt., Ex., CS-and may include a third point and example or more)

- 1. TOPIC SENTENCE—This has 4 parts: it must begin with a "transition," be a complete sentence that identifies the topic (one of the points from your thesis), relate to the overall topic of the paper, and has either the number of things or the specific ideas you will discuss in the paragraph about that specific point you made in the thesis. THIS MUST INCLUDE A REWORDING/REFERENCE TO THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE PAPER (THE FOCUS)! Do not use the exact same words for you point from the thesis
- 2. **FIRST POINT**—This comes from the topic sentence; it is an elaboration of it; it specifically breaks down and supports the topic; it's the first idea you want to develop; a statement that relates to and defines your topic sentence. It has 3 parts: a transition, clearly identifies one of the specific points you will make/show/prove, and a rewording of the point in the (TS).
- 3. **SUPPORT**—This is a detail, a support, or explanation that elaborates on the point you just made. It is two or more sentences long: the first sentence must explain/show your point; the remaining sentences must give specific details that tie back to your point and the main topic of the paper. You must clearly show what you mean and connect back to the main topic.

Name:	Date:	Period:

- 4. **SECOND POINT**—This is the second point that extends and continues to define, support, and explain your topic sentence. Again **It has 3 parts**: <u>a transition, clearly identifies one of the specific points you will make/show/prove, and a rewording of the point in the (TS)</u>.
- 5. SUPPORT—Again this is a supporting detail that gives the example, explanation of your point. It is <u>two or more sentences</u> long: the <u>first sentence must explain/show your point</u>; the <u>remaining sentences must give specific details that tie back to your point</u> and the main topic of the paper. <u>You must clearly show what you mean and connect back to the main topic</u>.
- 6. CONCLUDING SENTENCE—This sentence has 3 parts: <u>it begins with a transition</u>, <u>summarizes the point of your paragraph</u>, and <u>connects the paragraph back to the main topic of</u> <u>your entire paper</u> without using the exact same words in the TS. It must begin with a transition to alert the reader you are done making your points and it MUST INCLUDE A REWORDING/REFERENCE TO THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE PAPER (THE FOCUS)!

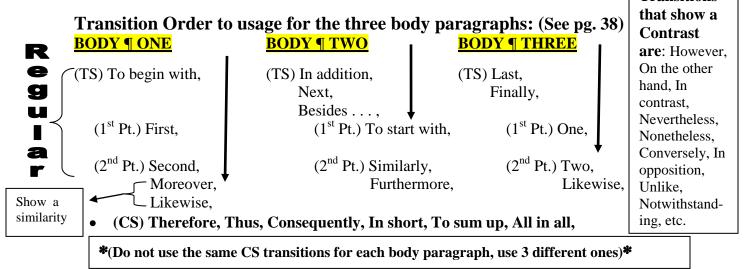
Vary the
TS and
CS usage:
Gen/Spec,
Spec/Gen,
Gen/Spec

TS/CS Rule: if your TS is general (doesn't state the <u>¶'s </u>2 pts.) then your CS is specific (states the <u>¶'s </u>2 pts.)

The Concluding Paragraph: RT (restated thesis), Summary, Clincher

- 1. <u>Restate thesis in new words</u> (this has three parts: it begins with a transition, it restates the thesis in **new words/same order**, and includes the main topic).
 - a. (RT) In conclusion, knowing that I can always count on my friends, that we have very similar traits, and they constantly keep me in stitches make my friends the quintessential element in my daily life.
- 2. <u>Summarize the main points of the paper</u> (this is an overall opinion on the topic or the overall point you're trying to make in a couple of sentences—look for ideas that will drive your point on the topic home—answer: "What is it that I want the reader to understand?").
 - a. (Summary) Life is filled with ups and downs, failures and victories, surprises and expectations. Living would take on the sense of ordinary if all those experiences were had without someone to share them with.
- End with a Clincher statement, a comment, idea, observation, quote, or question that leaves the reader with something to think about. Do Not Repeat Your Hook! THIS IS IN 3rd PERSON ONLY and must reach out to all people!

a. (Clincher) "If you want to win friends, make it a point to remember them. If you remember my name, you pay me a subtle compliment; you indicate that I have made an impression on you. Remember my name and you add to my feeling of importance."



Main Topic: One thing important to me?

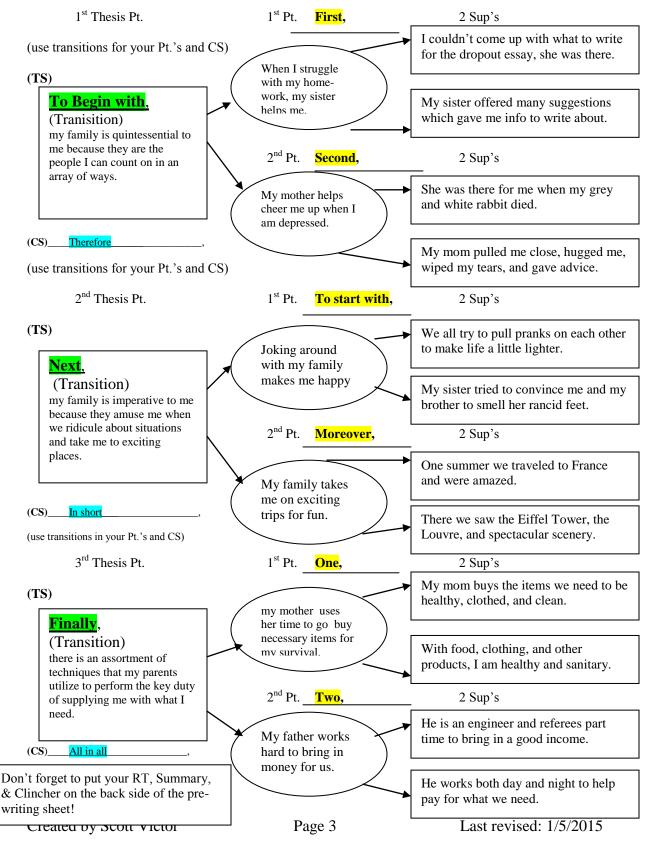
Name: _ Date:

_____ Period:

HOOK: Everyone has something in their life that they value, but what is that they hold near and dear?_____

GDT: For some people it's money or material objects. Others that education and success is more admired._

THESIS: ____Personally, my family is the most important thing to me because they support, entertain, and provide me with what I cannot do without.



Yasmine Bouzid 3/11/07 Period A

Critical for Survival

(Hook) Everyone has something or someone that plays a crucial part in their lives, but what is it that people hold near and dear to their hearts? (GDT) For some, money or other material items are what they classify as the most prominent objects in life. Others feel that education and personal success are what need to be taken into account. (Thesis) Personally, my family is the most important thing to me because they support, entertain, and provide me with what I cannot do without.

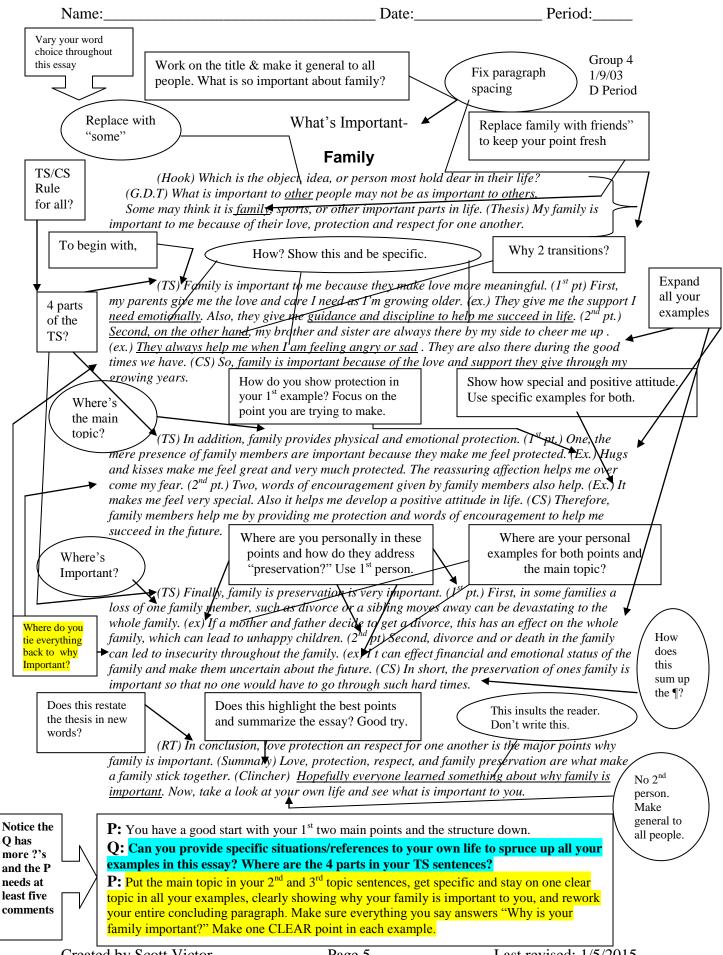
(TS) To begin with, my family is quintessential to me because they are the people I can count on in an array of ways. (1st Pt.) First, when I require assistance with my schoolwork because I cannot think of any ideas of what to write for English class, my sister is vital to encouraging me by helping me complete the assignment. (Sup) When I could not ponder what to author my final paragraph on for my essay on why teens drop out of school, my older sister promoted me to finish the task by offering suggestions. Since I was extremely discouraged to write an essay consisting of five paragraphs on my first attempt, I began to weep with tears running down my cheeks, but my sister reassured me that essays are similar to composing single paragraphs and told me to do the last paragraph on how children leave school because of teen pregnancy. Because she aided me by performing that noteworthy act, I was able to conclude the work and received an exceptional score. (2nd Pt.) Second, by contributing to my cheerfulness when I am depressed, my mother is substantial to maintaining my mental wellbeing. (Sup) Upon the death of our white and gray rabbit, Maxine, my mother comforted me as I was sobbing hysterically of grief and sorrow. She reached out, pulled me into a tight hug, and whispered words of sympathy as my salty tears soaked into her shirt, reminding me that my hamster, Caramel, was still alive. She made me accept that it could be expected since she was old for a rabbit and was in a better place because she might have been suffering of old age while she was living. My mother is absolutely essential for my continuation because she keeps me going morally and knows how to satisfy me no matter how down I am. (CS) Therefore, my family is the most influential thing in my entire existence because they take care of me with my education and emotionally.

(TS) In addition, my family is imperative to me because they amuse me when we ridicule about situations and take me to exciting places. (1st Pt.) To start with, my family and I frequently joke with each other in an enjoyable, slightly deranged, method, which plays the fundamental function of keeping me jubilant. (Sup) For example, one night before we were all about to go to sleep, my sister was attempting to force my brother, mother, and I to sniff her intoxicating feet by lifting one foot up to our noses. We pushed her away and started laughing while imagining that if any human being were to inhale the smell of her horrible feet, they would immediately keel over to the ground, dead. My sister has the remarkable ability to always invent original, occasionally repulsive, ways to make me giggle and brighten this dreary existence because otherwise, I would be incredibly disgruntled. (2nd Pt.) <u>Furthermore</u>, I cannot live without my family because my parents guide my siblings and I to fabulous locations where we all have a fantastic time together. (Sup) During the summer vacation, we traveled to France to visit our relatives and witness all the spectacular sites. We flew for fourteen hours on an airplane over the Pacific Ocean to reach our destination, and when we finally arrived, we went to acquaint with our aunt and cousins, ascend the seemingly limitless steps of the Eiffel Tower to look out at the beautiful city below, and gaze at the numerous portraits in the glass, pyramid-shaped Louvre Museum. Although it was rather pricey, my parents made the crucial decision to reserve two weeks out of their hectic livelihoods to take my brother, sister, and I on the most thrilling adventure of our lives for our enjoyment. (CS) <u>Thus</u>, my family is obligatory for my pleasure because they keep me in high sprits by countless means.

(TS) Finally, there is an assortment of techniques that my parents utilize to perform the key duty of supplying me with what I need. (1st Pt.) One, my mother mainly uses her time to go shopping to purchase necessary items for my continued subsistence. (Sup) In the morning while my siblings and I are attending school, my mom drives to a local grocery store in her light green mini van to acquire food, clothes, and various cleanliness products. She skims the aisles tossing things such as cereal, waffles, bagels, shirts, pants, socks, shampoo, conditioner, and soap into her cart before checking out at the cash register and strolling outside to the parking lot to maneuver the car back to our house. Due to her concern, I have the ability to wear clothes to protect me against the elements, eat food and drink liquids so that I will not starve or become dehydrated, and wash my hair and body so that I will feel and be sanitary. I would not be able to survive devoid of her obtaining all that I necessitate for the basic standards of living. (2nd Pt.) Two, my father plays the considerable role of carrying out employment to be paid money for my family and I to reside contentedly. (Sup) He is an accomplished civil engineer and additionally referees soccer games nearly every night to earn money for us to live comfortably. Every morning, he drives off to the city of Rancho Cordova, California to exert procedures such as supervising traffic and giving people the permission to execute any type of construction project to collect currency before returning home at around five o'clock at night. In the evening, he departs to the soccer stadium to call fouls, goals, and out-of-bounds between two opposing teams while they are kicking, dribbling, passing, and shooting a ball to make relatively twenty dollars per game. Since he usually referees at least three matches, most of the time my dad does not return home until late at night after a lengthy day of labor. During my childhood he is the person who is the central source of mandatory finances to pay for the house, car, and electricity, as these are the objects that I require for primary survival. (CS) In short, my parents make available to me the foremost substances that I am incapable of going on without by procuring indispensable products and implementing a prosperous occupation.

(RT) In conclusion, my direct family is the most important group of people to me because they persuade me to continue with kind remarks when I am in need of bolstering, know precisely how to make me carefree, and my parents make a solid effort to endow all that is compulsory for me in life. (Summary) During periods of joyousness, anguish, success, and failure, a person will look to a favored object or familiar people to be there for them. These things or individuals are valuable to the person by ensuring their welfare in reality. (Clincher) In times of hardship and trouble, who or what is it that a person depends on for condolence?

This is an example of what a good essay looks like with the correct 3 parts of the introduction, 6 parts of the body paragraphs, and 3 parts of the concluding paragraph. Although there are errors, it was an A, so try to model your paper after this one and maybe even better to get paid for your excellent work!



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CS rule?		ause she does things her wa			
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Essay "Must Have" Check List

- 1. Title is interesting, catchy, 3rd person, general to all people, and capitalized correctly.
- 2. The Hook is interesting, in 3rd person, general to all people, and combines more than one way to write a hook.
- 3. The GDT is two or more sentences long, follows all parts for the type of writing, is general to all people, and is in 3rd person only (exception is a narrative essay).
- 4. The Thesis clearly states the specific 3 points you will talk about regarding the main topic and uses the thesis formula.
- Introduction has one central idea that connects from the Hook, to the GDT, and the thesis.
- 6. The TS has all 4 parts (transition, point about the topic, the main topic, is general or specific), and clearly refers back to the main topic.
- 7. PT's have all 3 parts (transition, point about the paragraph topic in new words, the overall main topic in new words).
- 8. EX's have all 3 parts (explain the point, have a concrete detail that proves your point, and refers back to the main topic) and is at least two to three sentences long.
- 9. CS's have all 3 parts (transition, the main topic in new words, and the point of the paragraph in new words) and is one sentence long.
- 10. _____The TS/CS rule is applied (gen/spec, spec/gen, gen/spec -OR- spec/gen, gen/spec, spec/gen) ****Sentence variety is key for a higher writing score!
- 11. Your TS's, PT's, EX's, and CS's all reference the main topic in **new words**.
- 12. _____ TS's, PT's, CS's, and RT all begin with appropriate transitions.
- 13. RT has all 3 parts (transition, main topic, and 3 pts. about the main topic in the same order but new words).
- 14. _____ The Summary effectively drives home the main point of the overall essay.
- 15. _____ Clincher is thoughtful, in 3rd person, is general to all people, and really leaves the reader with something important to consider/think about.
- 16. Word choice is varied, clear, concise, effective—not repetitive.
- 17. _____ Few if any errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and word usage.
- 18. Uses good sentence variety with proper compound and complex sentences.
- 19. _____ Correct use of verb tense in the paper.
- 20. _____ Correct person is used throughout with NO YOUS (decide if the topic is to be addressed as a 1st or 3rd person essay).
- 21. _____ Correct use of spacing, margins, font size, identifiers
- 22. Overall clarity of paper, has a solid connectedness and flow, answered the question.
- 23. _____ Paper was read out loud to find any errors as well as visually checked for errors.
- 24. Saved final draft to a flash drive and printed

7 th Grade Essay Rubric	4	3	2	1	0
Content & Organization					
Is the title interesting/clever/unique, connected to the topic, spaced and capitalized correctly, in correct person? Is the heading correctly placed, spaced, typed, and general to all people?		4pts	3pts	2pts	1pt
Are the Hook & GDT in 3 rd person, general to all people, contain all parts, interesting/creative, connected to one another, and lead up to the thesis? Do they flow well together or are they choppy and/or disconnected?		6-8pts	4-5pts	2-3pts	1pt
Does the thesis contain the main topic, the three main points, and is one sentence long? Is it in the correct person and interesting?		4pts	3pts	2pts	1pt
Do the topic sentences begin with correct transitions, clearly identify the topic, make a clear and creative statement about that topic, and have all parts? Are they one sentence? Are they indented? Varied in presentation?		4pts	3pts	2pts	1pt
Are the point sentences clear and connected to the topic? Do they include all parts? Do they begin with an appropriate transition? Are they a single sentence? Do they vary the order of the point and topic?		4pts	3pts	2pts	1pt
Are the supporting sentences relevant, logically connected to each other, and on topic? Do the ideas flow smoothly? Do they include all the example parts? Do they assume the reader understands what you mean?		4pts	3pts	2pts	1pt
Are the supports/details clear, concise, concrete, thorough, and focused on the topic? Do they show and not tell/explain/prove? Is there enough support? Do they tie back?		6-8pts	4-5pts	2-3pts	1pt
Do the paragraphs end in an appropriate concluding sentence that has a transition, the main topic, and summarizes the main points in the same order and new words? Is it only one sentence?		4pts	3pts	2pts	1pt
Are the Transition words used appropriately in the essay? Do they connect the body paragraphs, points, and concluding statements?		4pts	3pts	2pts	1pt
Does the Concluding Paragraph have an appropriate RT, Summary, and Clincher? Does it effectively leave the reader thinking? Are all parts connected and flow together?		6-8pts	4-5pts	2-3pts	1pt
Grammar & Mechanics	4	3	2	1	0
Is the word choice varied, clear, concise, and effective? Are the words used and spelled correctly? Are there no contractions?		6-8pts	4-5pts	2-3pts	1pt
Are the verbs written in the correct tense with proper agreement? Does the paragraph use the correct person throughout? Are pronouns used correctly in the paragraph?		4pts	3pts	2pts	1pt
Is the punctuation, capitalization, font size, margins, and spacing correct and appropriate? <u>Are there fragments, comma splices, and/or run-ons</u> ? Are all identifiers included and used correctly?		6-8pts	4-5pts	2-3pts	1pt
Does the paragraph have a variety of sentence structures (compound, complex) and use them correctly? <u>Are there short, choppy sentences</u> ?	9-10pts	6-8pts	4-5pts	2-3pts	1pt
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