ESSAY FORMAT for PERSONAL RESPONSE

Paragraph One – Introduction

Answer the question given to you and take a stance as to whether you agree or disagree with the statement. Talk about the subject in general. For the last sentence in this paragraph, inform the exam marker as to the route that you be taking or exactly what it is that the essay will be talking about. This is your thesis statement and it must be very clear. For example: “One can see that this is true through what is illustrated in literature such as One Life to Live and through examples from my own personal experience.”

Paragraph Two – Body

Respond to the question using a character from a text (written or film). Use specific examples from the text and don’t try to stretch a character into the topic. It should be a natural fit. Don’t forget proper paragraph structure with a main topic, two sub topics, and two support details. Make sure that you indent and use proper punctuation and capitals. Make sure that the paragraph relates back to the thesis statement.

Paragraph Three – Body

Respond to the question based on the excerpt or question provided. Remember that novel titles, play titles, and films are italicized; short stories are titled within quotation marks. IF you cannot relate to the excerpt provided select another character from a piece of literature or expand on the character you chose for the paragraph. Make a side note explaining to the exam marker your reason for selecting an alternate character.

Paragraph Four – Body

Respond to the question based on your own personal experiences. This is where you can do your best writing, so be specific. Expand and give detailed examples. Add more paragraphs here if needed.

Paragraph Five – Conclusion

Sum up your thesis statement and discuss how the topic affects people as a whole. You can leave your reader with a statement or pose a question, but make the question sensible and at a grade 12 level.

\*\*Remember that you need to stay on topic. A common error is that students simply retell the plot of a piece of writing, a play or movie. Make sure you are not just retelling the story.\*\*