

NAME:  
Period :

## Simplified Essay Outline

### I. Introduction

- a. Catchy hook to get the reader's attention (i.e. quotation, question, shocking statistic, synopsis, etc.)—General information—not about the specific story or characters
- b. Expand upon the hook by providing 2-3 sentences connecting the hook to themes presented in the story (talk a little bit more about what was mentioned in the hook).
- c. Introduce the title(s) and author(s) of the text that will be discussed, and make a connection to the hook.
- d. Thesis statement=purpose and the main ideas (this is 1 sentence stating the answer to the question asked in the prompt and the reasons/main ideas).

### II. Body Paragraphs (be sure to provide transitions between the body paragraphs)

- a. Topic Sentence that states the main idea of the paragraph (be sure the first topic sentence is about the first main idea mentioned in the thesis).
- b. Make a point first. Give a reason/detail/evidence that proves the main idea of the topic sentence.
  - i. Then, find a quote for evidence that proves the point. Integrate the quote into your own writing (see example in IMPORTANT REMINDERS below).
    1. Explain how the quote proves the point being made, as well as the purpose mentioned in the thesis. This should be 2-3 sentences.
- c. Make another point. Give a second reason/detail/evidence that proves the main idea of the topic sentence.
  - i. Then, find a quote that proves the evidence. Integrate the quote into your own writing.
    1. Explain how the quote proves the point being made, as well as the purpose mentioned in the thesis. This should be 2-3 sentences.
- d. Make another point. Give a third reason/detail/evidence that proves the main idea of the topic sentence.
  - i. Then, find a quote that proves the evidence. Integrate the quote into your own writing.
    1. Explain how the quote proves the point being made, as well as the purpose mentioned in the thesis. This should be 2-3 sentences.

### III. Conclusion

- a. Summarize the main ideas of all two/three body paragraphs. Be sure to focus on the evidence that best proves the purpose of the paper (the answer to the prompt question). Don't use the same words that were used in the body paragraphs; find a new way to say the same thing.
- b. Tie back to the introduction by addressing the information that opened the essay.
- c. Make a point by taking the essay a step further. Relate the main ideas to the real world, or life in general. Remember, ideally, the reader will “get something” out of reading the essay, so make a clear statement about life here. Don't get too carried away here with specific examples or details. Make sure the point stays general and relates to the rest of the essay.

### **IMPORTANT ESSAY REMINDERS—Double check your essay before turning it in!**

- 1.) No first person (I, me, my, we, us, our)
- 2.) No second (you, your)
- 3.) No contractions (example: spell out “did not” instead of saying “didn't”)
- 4.) Integrate and explain all quotes.
- 5.) MLA citations are author's last name and page number in parenthesis. Punctuation goes after the parenthesis as follows:  
Example of integration and citation techniques: Madam Schachter's fellow prisoners hit her with “several blows to the head, blows that could have been lethal” (Wiesel 26).