Essay Format: 1. Terms, 2. General Rules, 3. Quotes

1. Overall Organization and Terms we will use:

* The entire essay is focused on answering a question.

**The most simple and clear answer to the question is called a thesis.**

* The essay is organized into 5 paragraphs:
  + The first paragraph is called the Introduction.
  + The second- fourth paragraphs are called Body Paragraphs
  + The fifth is called the Conclusion.

Introduction Breakdown: (1)

1-The introduction starts with a hook.

**The hook is one sentence designed to interest the reader.**

2-Next, write a sentence that includes the author name and Title.

3-Write your thesis (answer to the question.)

4- Finally write an organization sentence that lists or otherwise makes clear the 3 ways you will prove your thesis. This sentence is called the organization principle. This is the plan for the next 3 paragraphs.

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Body Paragraph(s) Breakdown: (2-4)

-The topic sentence/ mini-thesis/ first sentence of each body paragraph relates to the organization principle in your introduction. ONE of the points from the organization principle will form one body paragraph.

-Provide 3 pieces of evidence that you use to prove this topic sentence.

-Each point must include a quote and your explanation of how the quote proves your thesis/ topic sentence. BE CLEAR ON WHAT YOU ARE PROVING. AND WHY THIS PROVES IT.

-At the end of your paragraph, provide a conclusion to that point.

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Conclusion paragraph: (5)

-Restate thesis in new words.

-Restate organization principle in new words.

-Leave the audience contemplating your essay – called footprints.

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1. General Rules

A) No first person (I, you, me, myself, we, thou, etc) (change quotes if necessary using square brackets [ ])

B) No contractions (can’t, won’t, shouldn’t)

C) Provide quotes for all evidence and cite every quote using MLA format: (I, i, 1) (Ibsen 3)

D) All evidence must prove your thesis.

E) Provide a creative title that relates to your thesis (argument). Have your name by the title.

F) Always write in present tense.

(Change inside quotes if necessary using square brackets [ ])

G) Underline book titles: Romeo and Juliet

H) Provide a works cited page, and use correct MLA format.

I) Use the formal five body paragraph structure as explained above.

J) Revise, revise, revise!! And provide all evidence of revision and all outlines.

K) Formatting: Type using size12 font. It should be 3-4 pages. Indent all new paragraphs. Double space every line. Do not mess with margins.

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Quotes:

-Short is better (3-6 words)

-Provide at least one quote for every piece of evidence (min 3 per body)

-Provide a citation (Atwood 3) (Author name space page) for Shakespeare (I, i, 1) (Act, scene, line)

-Best quotes flow with your voice. Tense and pronouns are changed using [ ]

Ex. The Capulets start the fight when Sampson“[bites][his] thumb”(I, i. 34) at the Montagues.

Be clear to explain what your quote proves. Ex. This proves that the Montagues are to blame for initializing the fight.