

Survival Unit
Essay Organizer

Task: Write an argumentative 5-paragraph essay to answer the question: Does survival require selfishness? Use textual evidence from "Is Survival Selfish?", *Night*, and a third text from Unit 5. Follow the directions to complete the essay.

1. Write your thesis statement.
 - a. The thesis is the point of your essay. Everything in the essay should connect back to your thesis.
 - b. Thesis needs to include the names of the three texts, your answer to the question, and the words "survival" and "selfishness."
 - c. Example structure: Survival requires selfishness, which is shown by __, __, and __.
2. Finish the introduction paragraph.
3. Body paragraph 1 should use "Is Survival Selfish?" to support your argument.
 - a. You need two quotes from the text.
 - i. For each example, introduce the example in a general way. Specifically describe the example using a quote. Explain how the quote/example supports your argument.
4. Body paragraph 2 should use *Night* to support your argument.
 - a. You need two quotes from the text.
 - i. For each example, introduce the example in a general way. Specifically describe the example using a quote. Explain how the quote/example supports your argument.
5. Body paragraph 3 should use the third text to support your argument.
 - a. You need two quotes from the text.
 - i. For each example, introduce the example in a general way. Specifically describe the example using a quote. Explain how the quote/example supports your argument.
6. Consider 2 counterarguments. (If someone disagreed with you, what would their reasoning be?)
 - a. Think of ways to refute these counterarguments.
 - b. Choose one counterargument and complete the counterargument paragraph.
7. Complete the conclusion paragraph.
8. Look back over your organizer. Find a place to add a relative clause.
9. Have you used enough transitional words and phrases?
10. Write your final draft. (Note: Choose the most logical place for your counterargument paragraph.
11. Proofread your writing.

Things to Avoid:

- Vague words, such as "thing" or "stuff"
- Run-on sentences
- Sentence fragments
- 1st and 2nd pronouns (I, you, me, our, we). The only time you should use these words is in a direct quote from the text.
- Comma splices
- Subject-verb disagreement
- Losing your focus

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Introduction Paragraph

Hook (Engage the Reader)
Introduce the works of literature (Briefly summarize the purpose of each text in terms of survival)
Thesis (topic, 3 points, and argument)

Counterargument Paragraph

Introduce the counterargument:
Respond to it by discussing the reasons the argument is incomplete, weak, unsound, or illogical:
Provide examples or evidence showing the opposing argument is unsound:
State your own argument, showing that it is stronger than the identified counterargument:

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Body Paragraph 1:

Topic Sentence:		
Example 1:		
Lead into the quote:	Quote #1 to Support:	
Tie the quote back into the point of the paragraph (This example shows__)		
		Transition
Example 2:		
Lead into the quote:	Quote #2 to support:	
Tie the quote back into the point of the paragraph		
Tie examples and the point back into the main argument		

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Body Paragraph 2

Topic Sentence:	
Example 1:	
Lead into the quote:	Quote #1 to Support:
Tie the quote back into the point of the paragraph	
Transition	
Example 2:	
Lead into the quote:	Quote #2 to Support:
Tie the quote back into the point of the paragraph	
Tie examples and the point back into the main argument:	

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Body Paragraph 3:

Topic Sentence:	
Example 1:	
Lead into the quote:	Quote #1 to Support:
Tie the quote back into the point of the paragraph	
Transition	
Example 2:	
Lead into the quote:	Quote #2 to support:
Tie the quote back into the point of the paragraph	
Tie examples and the point back into the main argument	

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Conclusion Paragraph:

Recap the three points (3 sentences, summarizing each body paragraph)

Rephrase the main argument (repeat the idea of your thesis using different words)

Leave the reader thinking