

## **One Page Concept Review:** **Development in Q3 Essays**

### **Thesis in an Upper-Half Essay about F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (end of first paragraph)**

Deception often has its roots in self-preservation. In many cases, the individual does not intend to help or harm others through his dishonest, but rather aims to protect his own personal safety. This is case for the young James Gatz in F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*, who deceives everyone he meets and assumes a new persona to match his lavish, new life: Jay Gatsby.

- Argument: Gatsby deceives for reasons of self-preservation

### **Thesis in a Lower-Half Essay about F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (end of first paragraph)**

In the book *The Great Gatsby* Nick and Gatsby become good friends as Gatsby shows Nick how the wealthy upper class live, and the two hit it off, although this is deceiving as Gatsby is in an all out search to find Daisy and pursue their "impossible love story."

- This makes no argument; it is just summary
- Quotation marks are around random phrases; why do students do this?

### **Body Paragraphs in an Upper-Half Essay about F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (two of four total body paragraphs-- half the argument)**

James Gatz did not come from a family of lavish wealth like those of west and East Egg, so when he gained his wealth working his way up the ladder of success, he wanted no ties with the man that he once was. He changed his name just as he had changed his life, to show that he could control who he was. Gatsby's attitude toward wishing to control everything is so pervasive throughout the novel and ties into Gatsby's overwhelming desire for his love Daisy Buchanan.

Jay Gatsby not only wants to have Daisy for his very own, he also desires to protect her. At a turning point in the novel, Daisy is driving Gatsby's yellow car when she hits a woman named Myrtle, who happens to be Tom Buchanan's mistress, killing her instantly. Gatsby tells no one but Nick that it was Daisy, not he, who was behind the wheel that night, and despite Nick's warning, Gatsby refuses to let Daisy's reputation be ruined. Gatsby is so blind in his love for Daisy that he is willing to deceive an entire community and take the blame for a crime he did not commit, a crime that eventually leads to his demise.

- There are topic sentences; the writer understands what each paragraph is going to accomplish
- New introduced characters are identified
- The context of when an event happened in the novel is explained
- Even if I hadn't read the novel I would be able to follow the argument
- There is an interpretive point, and it is connected to each example through focused analysis and explanation

## **Body Paragraph in a Lower-Half Essay about F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (one of two total body paragraphs-- half the argument)**

Nick is new to town and ends up being Gatsby's next door neighbor, and Gatsby takes him in and shows him the ropes, but to Gatsby's knowledge Nick is Daisy's cousin, and Daisy is really who Gatsby is pursuing. Although Nick and Gatsby are friends, at the end of the day Nick is being used so Gatsby can see Daisy. This ultimately plays to the theme of the novel, which is an impossible love story. Gatsby does whatever it takes to reach Daisy, lies and deception, but at the end of the day, it is impossible. Gatsby will never obtain what he wants, he will never get to be with Daisy.

- No topic sentence; there is no evidence of planning
- There is no attempt to explain who the characters are (either here or in the intro)
- There is no specific example; the writer is not paraphrasing an episode from the book (which is a large part of why it is half the length)
- It's mostly generalized summarizing with a "Here's what it means" conclusion to the paragraph
- Even this is treated incompetently; the connection between "using someone" and "therefore, the love is impossible" is never explained

## **Conclusion in Upper-Half Essay about F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (last paragraph)**

The Great and Mysterious Jay Gatsby is no more than a figurehead. He represents all that is great and wonderful about the American Dream while hiding all of the lies and deception of its foundation behind a glistening curtain of champagne and swimming pools and jazz music. Gatsby's deception about who he truly is and how he earned his wealth extends far past his own self and connects to the deception and decline of the American Dream as a whole. By hiding from the truth, be it for his own self-preservation or for Daisy's, Gatsby deceives the world about the true evils of the American Dream, proving that the "self-made man" is just a con-artist at heart.

- Sums up the argument
- Connects to the big picture (in this case, a theme)

## **Conclusion in Lower-Half Essay about F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (last paragraph)**

Through the example of Gatsby deceiving Nick in their relationship, we are able to see the theme of the novel play out, the impossible love story, and how Gatsby will never achieve that, but also the corruption and cheating of other characters and their fixation and obsession with personal wealth.

- Mechanically summarizes each paragraph one by one
- There is no attempt to connect to the big picture
- To the extent that this essay had a thesis, it was something about an "impossible love story," but there are random elements in the conclusion that have nothing to do with this idea