**Important notes for everyone:**

1. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW MLA GUIDELINES – This includes your heading, double spacing, indenting your paragraphs, and works cited (if applicable). I will not grade poorly-formatted final drafts. You will have to re-submit and it will be late.
2. NO 1ST OR 2ND PERSON PRONOUNS – you, your, you’re, yours, I, me, we, us, our
3. THE THESIS IS THE LAST SENTENCE IN YOUR INTRO – not the first, not in the middle.
4. WHY CAP? – I’m asking why you capitalized this random word. It’s a common noun and should not be capitalized.
5. AWK – this is awkwardly phrased. Read it out loud and fix it.

**\*\*Required for Honors\*\* (English I students may try it out if they wish)**

Instead of making one paragraph a full TEAEAL paragraph, I want you to try to incorporate a naysayer. A naysayer is like a mini-argument inside one of your paragraphs (towards the middle of the paragraph). You introduce someone who generally disagrees with you (the naysayer), say what they disagree with or what they believe that is the opposite of your idea, and then you refute their argument in just a sentence or two.

Example – Critics may say that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but can’t be the case because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (follow up with evidence and analysis).

Try to specifically name your naysayers – conservatives, the media, parents, etc.

**Students Skipping School**

 Cause essays:

 Intros – think about discussing what skipping school is and how it differs from just missing school and having an excused absence.

 Body paragraphs – In your analysis, think about why students feel that skipping for this reason is a better option than staying at school.

 Conclusions – summarize your essay in one or two sentences, possibly list a few effects of skipping, and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the causes, what should we do about it?)

 Effect essays:

 Intros - think about discussing what skipping school is and how it differs from just missing school and having an excused absence. You may also want to touch on the causes in just one sentence.

 Body paragraphs – In your analysis, discuss WHY is this an effect? You need to explain how this results from skipping school.

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the effects, what should we do about it?)

**Students Cheating in School**

 Cause essays:

Intro - Discuss what cheating looks like in school

 Body paragraphs – For your evidence, feel free to use hypothetical situations and use specific classes as examples

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences, possibly list a couple effects, and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the causes, what should we do about it?)

Effect essays:

Intro - Discuss what cheating looks like in school and maybe list a few reasons why people do it

 Body paragraphs – For your evidence, feel free to use hypothetical situations and use specific classes or punishments as examples. If you are talking about punishments, think about why schools/parents have those consequences for students.

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the effects, what should we do about it?)

**Divorce**

Cause essays:

Intros – Discuss what divorce is and why you are talking about it (it’s fairly common in the US)

 Body paragraphs – For examples, avoid super personal examples (you don’t want 1st person). Instead, think of celebrity divorces as some concrete examples. Your analysis needs to explain how this thing leads to divorce. Why would a partner want out of the relationship? How is it not something that can be worked through?

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences, possibly discuss a couple effects, and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the causes, what should we do about it?)

Effect essays:

Intros - Discuss what divorce is and specify whether you are talking about just spouses (no kids), or parents (with kids)

 Body paragraphs – Don’t spend too much of your time on a causal chain (this causes this, causes this). Make sure you spend ample time explaining how divorce results in whatever effect. How does it get to that point?

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the effects, what should we do about it?)

**Performance Enhancing Drugs**

Cause essays:

Intros – **Discuss what PEDs are. They’re not just steroids, so make sure you know what counts as a performance enhancing drug**. Also think about mentioning that they are present in all sports, from baseball to bicycling

 Body paragraphs – In your examples, think about real-life athletes who have gotten caught or admitted they have taken PEDs. (Russian Olympic team, Lance Armstrong, A-Rod, Barry Bonds). Also consider why taking PEDs seems like a better option than just working hard and hoping the athlete gets where they want/need to be (in your analysis).

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences, list a couple effects, and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the causes, what should we do about it?)

Effect essays:

Intros – **Discuss what PEDs are. They’re not just steroids, so make sure you know what counts as a performance enhancing drug**. You may also want to touch briefly on the causes of athletes using them.

 Body paragraphs – In your examples, think about real-life athletes who have gotten caught or admitted they have taken PEDs. (Russian Olympic team, Lance Armstrong, A-Rod, Barry Bonds). This essay might also benefit from some science – what is in these chemicals that makes them effective/addictive/mood-changing?

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the effects, what should we do about it?)

**Climate Change**

Cause essays:

Intro – possibly discuss the controversy behind this topic (this will show how your essay is relevant and why you are talking about it)

 Body paragraphs – For your evidence, think about real places or real examples (think about pollution). This will add weight to your examples. You also want to make sure you focus on the science behind climate change – how do these things actually cause the climate to change?

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences, possibly list a couple effects, and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the causes, what should we do about it?)

Effect essays:

Intro – possibly discuss the controversy behind this topic (this will show how your essay is relevant and why you are talking about it) and some of the causes

 Body paragraphs – For your evidence, think about real places. This will add weight to your examples. You also want to make sure you focus on the science behind climate change – how does climate change actually cause your effects to occur? How are they connected?

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the effects, what should we do about it?)

**Unrealistic Beauty Standards**

Cause essays:

Intro - Discuss what unrealistic beauty standards are (for both men and women). What do they look like? Why are they considered “unrealistic?”

 Body paragraphs – For your evidence, think about real people or real ads. This will add weight to your examples.

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences, possibly list a couple effects, and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the causes, what should we do about it?)

Effect essays:

Intro - Discuss what unrealistic beauty standards are (for both men and women). What do they look like? Why are they considered “unrealistic?” Also, what are a couple of the causes?

 Body paragraphs – For your evidence, think about real people exemplifying these crazy standards. I would also emphasize that these are *unrealistic*. This means that the majority of the population can’t actually achieve this look without resorting to drastic measures.

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the effects, what should we do about it?)

**Popularity of Video Games**

Cause essays:

Intro - Discuss what video games are (are they only on a console? Computer? Phone?).

 Body paragraphs – For your evidence, think about using actual games in your examples. What are they like? What do people enjoy about them?

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences, possibly list a couple effects, and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the causes, what should we do about it?)

Effect essays:

Intro - Discuss what video games are (are they only on a console? Computer? Phone?). Also think about a few of the causes

 Body paragraphs – For your evidence, think about using actual games in your examples. Also think about why playing the game seems like a better option than doing something else, or how the game puts a halt on their real lives.

 Conclusion: summarize your essay in one or two sentences and maybe provide a call to action (if we know the effects, what should we do about it?)