8th Grade Paragraph Writing Assignment

Topic: What makes a good friend?

Step 1: Come up with three ideas you could write separate paragraphs about.

Step 2: Write the paragraphs including the following (treat this as a checklist, and annotate your writing).

\_\_\_\_\_ Intriguing topic sentence that draws your reader in and sets up the rest of the paragraph. (underline this)

In {\_\_\_\_\_ Example**s** that illustrate your point. (label with “I”)

any {\_\_\_\_\_ Elaboration on examples, that is, explain how they support your topic. (label with “E”)

order {\_\_\_\_\_ ATTRIBUTED facts, statistics, quotes, or other support for your topic. (label with “S”)

 \_\_\_\_\_ Transition sentence that leads your reader into your next idea. (underline this)

Step 3: Repeat step 2 for your other topics. You will be assigned one paragraph per night this week.

Grading: You will receive a holistic score out of 10 points for each paragraph you write. This is a code for each score:

10: You’ve mastered all the elements of a sound paragraph

9: You’ve mastered all but one of the elements of a sound paragraph

8: You mastered all but two elements, or you’ve nearly mastered the elements of a sound paragraph.

7: There’s a good amount of improvement you need to make on this skill.

6: There are some significant changes you need to make in order to craft a strong paragraph.

5: You turned in something completely different than what I asked.

0: You did not turn in the assignment.

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$=yes, @=almost, !=work on this, #=see Mr. Santos

Topic Sentence:

\_\_\_\_\_ General enough to require support, specific enough to focus on one supporting topic

\_\_\_\_\_ Previews the rest of the paragraph

\_\_\_\_\_ Intriguing and not formulaic

\_\_\_\_\_ Conventionally sound

Support:

\_\_\_\_\_ Provides enough examples/facts

\_\_\_\_\_ Elaborates on examples/facts

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