**The Introduction:**

**1.Topic sentence**

(a general sentence that names the topic of the essay)

**2. Background sentence**

(another general sentence that gives a little background on topic)

**3. Hook**

(a story, a question, a warning, a quote)

\*If it’s a story, it shouldn’t be longer than 3-5 sentences long

**4. Sub topic sentences** ( S1, S2, S3, S4)

(one sentence about each subtopic)

**5. Thesis statement**

(names the topic of essay and the subtopics)

\*must have a trigger word. (ie: should/should not, will/will not, is, is not)

Summer vacations are a great way to spend time enjoying life. Vacations require a lot of planning, but it’s worth it once you arrive at your destination. My family and I took a trip over the summer and it allowed us to bond as a family. My family has been struggling with some personal issues lately. My grandmother died and it caused much sadness and grief. These vacations gave us a renewed spirit and allowed us to be happy again. Vacations are important because they give us time to get away from the daily grind of life. I had several vacations this summer that were amazing. My favorite vacation was Disneyland because it’s the most magical place on earth. Summer vacation should be a necessity because it’s important to the family, it creates memories that last forever, and give us the opportunity to visit great places.

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**Body Paragraphs:**

**1. Topic Transition sentence**

(names the topic of essay and subtopic you are writing about)

**2. Lead off/follow up sentences**

(each detail under the subtopic will get a lead off sentence and a follow up sentence) L1/F1

L2/F2, L3/F3 and so on…

\*the follow up sentence always answers: who, what, why, where, when or how

**3. Transition sentence**

(names the subtopic and the next subtopic in a sentence to transition to next body paragraph)

Subtopic: Highlights of Disneyland

Disneyland is the happiest place on earth. This summer I had an opportunity to go with my family and it was the best decision I could have made. My favorite part of Disneyland was riding on the Pirates of the Caribbean. I love this ride because it reminds me my own childhood memories of Disneyland and the newly added Jack Sparrow makes it even more exciting. Seeing Mickey Mouse was a close second. He is such an iconic figure in the United States and seeing him was magical. The rides at Disneyland are great because they offer rides for all ages. One of my favorite rides was Soaring Over California at California Adventure park. It allows you to take a quick trip over the beautiful spots in California and you feel like you’re actually flying. The final stop in Disneyland that made our trip a success was eating Mickey Mouse pancakes with my kids. They were cute and tasted delicious. The importance of vacation is the time you get to spend with family!

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**Conclusion:**

**1. Concluding transition sentence**

(names the topic of essay and names the subtopics letting the reader know you are concluding)

\* for example: In conclusion or To conclude

**2 .Concluding hook**

(opinion, caution the reader, suggestion, moral of the story)

\* 1-3 sentences

**3. One final thought about each subtopic**

(one sentence for each subtopic)

S1, S2, S3, S4

**4. The clincher sentence**

(the last sentence in the essay that usually restates the main message of the essay or leaves the reader with a final thought.) Can also be a quote!

To conclude, summer vacations are important because they give us much needed time with our family, they allow us to visit some of our favorite places and we create valuable memories in the process. In my opinion, everyone should try to take at least one vacation a year. It renews the spirit which is vital to our well-being. My favorite vacation this summer was by far Disneyland. Riding the rides and seeing Mickey Mouse made the trip special. The importance of vacation is the renewed family time that is so needed, especially after suffering a tragedy. Kelly Clarkson, the famous singer sums up the importance of vacation best. “The thing I love most about going on vacation is that I get to leave behind any kind of schedule. My entire life is scheduled from morning to night, and when I'm on vacation, there is no schedule.”

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