English II Compare & Contrast Outliers Prompt

Prompt

In a well-developed essay of at least 800 words, write a compare and contrast essay that discusses the similarities and differences between topics discussed in Malcom Gladwell's *Outliers*. While *Outliers* should be the center of your piece, you can use outside research and knowledge to write your arguments.

Some of the topics you can discuss include:

- Chris Langan and Robert Oppenheimer
- 10,000 Hours and Birth Date for Success
- Concerned Cultivation and "Natural Growth" or Free-Range Parenting
- Culture of Honor with Southerners/Northerners
- Low and High-Power Distance Index
- Asian and American Students' Math Skills

Quotes and Research

- Your essay must include <u>at least three quotes from the text</u>, but quoted material should be no more than 10% of your essay. You should also include <u>at least two additional quotes from outside sources.</u>
- Make sure to embed quotations correctly (as we discussed in class for the last essay) and use quotes that support your argument.
- Each of them should be short, interesting bits of text that illustrate an argument you are making. Use the quotes as evidence to support your claims about the differences between the two stories.

Introduction and Conclusion

Sample:

When I was in middle school, my mother insisted that I play the piano because she believed that learning music would make me a smarter, more talented student and person. I hated the piano, though, believing that I didn't have the talent to play, and instead of attending the thousands of hours of practice my mother paid for, I hid anywhere I could. Years later, though, I wonder if I shouldn't have played more and trusted that hard work could overcome a lack of talent. When it comes to success, natural talent and hard work are both important, but Malcolm Gladwell persuasively argues in *Outliers* that it is hard work that matters most.

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Railroad Pattern
Thesis
Paragraph: Subject A
    a. point 1
    b. point 2.
    c. point 3.

Paragraph II: Subject B
    a. point 1
    b. point 2.
    c. point 3.

Tennis Court Pattern
Thesis
I. Point 1
    a. "Subject A"
    b. "Subject B"
II. Point 2
    a. "Subject A"
    b. "Subject B"
II. Point 3
    a. "Subject A"
    b. "Subject B"

Railroad Pattern Sample
Thesis
Paragraph: Chris Langan
    a. point 1: background
    b. point 2: academic history
    c. point 3: achievements

Paragraph II: Robert Oppenheimer
    a. point 1: background
    b. point 2: academic history
    c. point 3: achievements

Tennis Court Pattern Sample
Thesis
I. Background
    a. "Robert Oppenhemer"
    b. "Chris Langan"
II. Academic History
    a. "Robert Oppenhemer"
    b. "Chris Langan"
II. Achievements
    a. "Robert Oppenhemer"
    b. "Chris Langan"

How to Incorporate Quotations
- Remember to embed your quotations inside sentences so they make logical and grammatical sense.
- There is a specific order when you incorporate a quotation from literature: quote, quotation mark page number, punctuation.

Sample incorporated quotes:
- *Gatsby is not to be regarded as a personal failure. "Gatsby turned out all right at the end" (176), according to Nick.*
- *For Nick, who remarks that Gatsby "turned out all right" (176), the hero deserves respect but perhaps does not inspire great admiration.*

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Railroad Outline

Thesis:

Subject A:

    Point 1:

    Point 2:

    Point 3:

Subject B:

    Point 1:

    Point 2:

    Point 3:

Tennis Court Pattern

Thesis:

I. Point 1:
    a. "Subject A"

    b. "Subject B"

II. Point 2:
    a. "Subject A":

    b. "Subject B":

III. Point 3
    a. "Subject A":

    b. "Subject B":