Building Body Paragraphs

Adversity/Theme Essay

Language Arts 7—Kaye

Tonight for HW, identify 5 major points you seek to make that can be expanded into topic sentences. Keep in mind that each of these stand-alone sentences will control the scope of subject and maintain the focus of each body paragraph of your essay.

5 different—but related—sub-topics related to your personal narrative/human-interest profile essay should be identified.

Keep in mind that as we move to develop each body paragraph, we’ll be incorporating concrete details (CD) and commentary (CM); if you have specific ideas now, jot them down; it’ll make the next stage easier for you.

Tonight:

1. Brainstorm
2. Write
3. Revise to make sure each of your topic/focus sentences offers an opportunity to develop a critical part of your essay.

My examples:

1. Having lived with Multiple Sclerosis for the past 20 years, my mom is used to dealing with health related issues, but nothing could have prepared her for that call she received from her doctor.
2. Cancer is diagnosed in stages: 1 being the least threatening and 4 being the most developed, aggressive growth. My mom received news that hers was a Stage 3.
3. It’s critical that women have an annual mammogram test to check for abnormal growth on their breasts; my mom went two years without an annual physical.
4. A fighter’s mentality is needed to battle cancer; a positive outlook is critical, along with proper nutrition, exercise, and a discipline to keep up with the treatment schedule.
5. Fighting this disease requires the best specialists money can buy; when your life’s on the line, it’s of utmost importance to have complete faith in the experts who provide care, advice, and guidance.

**Developing a Body Paragraph: using the chunking technique**

Fighting this disease requires the best specialists money can buy; when your life’s on the line, it’s of utmost importance to have complete faith in the experts who provide care, advice, and guidance. Since the diagnosis, Mom has been blessed with a female surgeon who specializes in breast surgery. Besides being knowledgeable and highly skilled in their trade, it’s important for surgeons to be effective communicators and possess empathy and compassion; Dr. Drislane is a God-send. The relationship between a patient and doctor is built on trust and rapport—especially when it comes to oncologists, doctors who specialize in treating cancer. My mom is fortunate to have Dennis Calea in her corner. To have a cancer specialist who possesses compassion, patience, and a positive, calming effect makes a huge difference for my mom and our entire family. They say it takes a village to raise a child; the same can be said for caring for and supporting someone struggling to battle a terminal disease.