**Ender’s Game Theme Essay**

**The Prompt:**

One theme in Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card is that the line between good and evil is not always clear. At times, Ender is good and compassionate like his sister Valentine, but at other times he crosses the line and becomes evil and brutal like his brother Peter. In a well-developed, five-paragraph essay, use **evidence** from the novel to answer the following question (your answer is your **claim**) and to support your claim. Overall, is Ender mostly good or mostly evil?

**The Assignment:**

**Step 1:** **State your claim**. Do you believe Ender is mostly good and compassionate or mostly evil and brutal? There is plenty of evidence in what we’ve read so far to prove either claim.

**Step 2:** Come up with **three reasons** to support your claim. Find one quote to prove each reason (for a total of **three quotes**). \*We will find quotes in class, but at home you can write your introduction on your **Argumentative Writing Organizer**. (Don’t forget to mention the novel title and the author’s name in your intro!)

**Step 3:** Complete your **Argumentative Writing Organizer**. (All five paragraphs). This is your outline, but you still need to use complete sentences. This will be a little messy…that’s okay.

**Step 4:** Look at your three **Introduction Sentences** on each body paragraph and your **Transition to Conclusion** sentence. Did you use transition words so your readers can move smoothly from one idea to the next? (Use the Transition Words handout in your Toolbox or those listed on your Writing Organizer.)

**Step 5:** In class, we will **read our essays out loud** to a small group. This helps us to hear our words to see if they flow smoothly and make sense. This is a great way to catch our mistakes! It is also a great way to hear what other students are thinking and how they organize their thoughts. I know some of you are shy about this, but it is a required step, and I know you can do it!

**Step 6:** Transform the ideas from your Writing Organizer into **five indented, double-spaced paragraphs**. This is your **Rough Draft**, and we will use this version for editing, so write it IN PEN (blue or black ink) or type it in black ink. If you write it, **skip a line between each written line**. If you type it, **double space**.

**Step 7:** We will get out our **highlighters** and do some very specific **editing**.

**Step 8:** Take home your colorful, messy, edited rough draft, and fix your mistakes. Remember, nobody gets it exactly right the first time! Read your revised version to someone at home to be sure it sounds just like you want it to. Then, turn this into a **final draft**! Use the correct format and heading (see the Essay Checklist).

**Step 9**: Staple your **FINAL DRAFT on top**, your **ROUGH DRAFT in the middle**, and your **WRITING ORGANIZER to the back**, and turn it in to your class basket. Do a quick **happy dance** because you are FINISHED! ☺

**The Due Dates:**

Wed. Sept. 9

* **Homework**: Steps 1 and 2 **DUE TOMORROW!**

Thurs. Sept. 10**:** In class: Find QUOTES to support your claim.

* **Homework:** Steps 3 and 4 **DUE TUESDAY, SEPT. 15**. (Pace yourselves!)

Fri. Sept. 11: Vocabulary Relay for team points! Bring your Vocab Notebooks!

* **Homework**: Continue working on your Writing Organizer.

Mon. Sept. 14: Step 5 (Read aloud and revise drafts. You should be almost done!)

* **Homework**: Continue working on your Writing Organizer.

Tues. Sept. 15: **Turn in** COMPLETED Writing Organizers.

* **Homework**: Study your Chapter 7-12 vocabulary words for a **quiz tomorrow**.

Wed. Sept. 16: Vocab and Chapters 10-12 quiz and read.

* **Homework**: Step 6 (rough drafts) **DUE TOMORROW!**

Thurs. Sept. 17: Step 7 (editing) in class.

* **Homework**: Final Drafts (steps 8 and 9) **DUE TUES. SEPT. 22!**