**DIRECTIONS FOR *THINGS FALL APART* ESSAY FOR ENGLISH II (Gulledge)**  
Using your text, *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, you are to write a five paragraph essay: An introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.   
The final draft of your essay should be typed and the length should be 3-4 typed, double-spaced pages.   
The title of your paper should be an original title that captures the main idea of your paper. (Your title should never be the title of the novel you are writing about.)   
Your paper should be in MLA format. Google OWL at Purdue (the online writing lab through Purdue University) for a complete MLA formatting guide.   
Your paper should contain at least four quotations from the novel, and you should introduce and cite your quotations according to MLA format.   
Your paper should demonstrate proper punctuation, correct spelling, and consistent tense.   
  
Below is the outline for your paper.   
Though your thesis statement and topic sentences have been provided for you, you are required to find the specific data or textual evidence to support the chief claim (thesis statement) and the three sub-claims (topic sentences.)   
  
When you write your paper, make sure that you” repeatedly remind the reader” or RRR of the claim you are proving through textual evidence.   
With each paragraph, remember that you must include your claim, your data (evidence), and your warrant (your reasons for why the data so effectively supports the claim).

THESIS STATEMENT:  
Because Okonkwo is afraid of being weak like his father, he behaves in inappropriate ways that bring harm to his family and himself.­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­  
**THESIS PIECES:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Weak characteristics O’s father demonstrates (that O. is afraid he might demonstrate himself) | Inappropriate ways that O. behaves  (because of his fear of having these weak characteristics like his father) | Ways such inappropriate behavior brings harm to O’s family or himself |

Topic Sentence 1: Okonkwo, terrified of appearing lazy like his father, abuses his son and his wives when they fail to demonstrate the fierce work ethic he expects; such fear-induced abuse causes his family unnecessary suffering.   
  
**TOPIC SENTENCE 1 PIECES:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1a) Father’s first weak characteristic : | 1b) Inappropriate way O. behaves (because he fears demonstrating this weak characteristic): | 1c)Way Nwoye and wives are not only physically harmed, but way they suffer from O’s inappropriate behavior |
| Data (Evidence from the text): | Data (Evidence from the text): | Data (Evidence from the text): |

Topic Sentence 2: Secondly, Okonkwo’s fear of being powerless and womanly like his father causes him to demonstrate inappropriate insensitivity and violence towards his adopted son, Ikemefuna. Fearing to show empathy and compassion, Okonkwo’s unwise choice to participate in Ikemefuna’s murder causes irrevocable harm to both Ikemefuna and Nwoye.   
**TOPIC SENTENCE 2 PIECES:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2a)Father’s second weak characteristic: | 2b)Another inappropriate way O. behaves: | *2c)*Ways this second inappropriate behavior brings harm…. |
| Data (Evidence from the text): | Data (Evidence from the text): | Data (Evidence from the text): |

Topic Sentence 3: Finally, O’s fear of appearing cowardly and defenseless like his father causes him to respond with violence to the European effort to change his tribe’s religion and laws. Such inappropriate, violent choices only serve to bring harm to both Okonkwo and his family.   
**TOPIC SENTENCE 3 PIECES:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 3)Father’sthird weak characteristic: | 3)Third inappropriate way O. behaves: | 3)Ways such behavior causes harm to Okonkwo and his family: |
| Data (Evidence from the text): | Data (Evidence from the text): | Data (Evidence from the text): |