Brad Rizzo
Ms. Tabaczka
English 1, 2nd hour
11-29-10
FCA's
1. Clear, supportive ties between 3 parallel situations
2. 3 "choice" quotations included according to form
3. Sentence variety, 3 participial, appositive, and prepositional

Life's Obstacles

Life is always throwing you curveballs at any random moment. But how you handle them is what makes them "hittable" or not. Life has thrown me many curveballs in the past, and I'm sure more to come in the future. Much like Homer's "The Odyssey," my life has been a unique "odyssey" of its own type, including events such as snowboarding in Colorado, being trapped by my sister, and choosing the perfect snowboard, which have shaped the person I am today. All of these obstacles reminded me of Odysseus' travels or events in the epic "The Odyssey".

"I might have made it safely home, that time,/ but as I came round Malea the current/ took me out to sea, and from the North/ a fresh gale drove me past Cythera"(1. 31-35) Stated Odysseus as he was telling his story to King Alcinous of Phaeacia and others. Odysseus almost getting home from the Trojan War reminded me of the time when I got lost snowboarding in Colorado. My Uncle let me go up to the peaks by myself, and on my way back down the mountain I got lost. Odysseus' statement reminded me of my hard journey on my way back to my Uncle, because the trails had other plans for me. I followed the map, but then I would get stuck somewhere and have to back track or hike to a different trail. I had to stop at a few different halfway houses since some of them didn't have a phone. I finally found a nice one with a phone and punched in my Uncle's number. I luckily got a hold of my uncle the first time and finally joined up with him in front of the main lodge after a long and scary journey(prepositional). When I
stopped at the different halfway houses to find a phone it too reminded me of Odysseus' journey, for he stopped at multiple islands only to be struck with bad luck.

When Odysseus was trapped by the Cyclops in his cave, it reminded me of the time when Andrea, my older sister, trapped me inside her play house(appositive). Sitting in the corner, I developed a plan(participial). Odysseus describing his encounter with the Cyclops said, "My heart beat high now with the chance of action,/ and drawing my sharp sword from my hip..."(1. 200-201). This statement reminds me of how I felt when I was about to put my plan into action. I saw a flashlight in the other corner of the play house and sneakily grabbed it(prepositional). In one quick motion I shone the light in her eyes and snuck by her when she couldn't see clearly for a second. This situation was actually a lot like Odysseus' with the Cyclops. Odysseus couldn't kill the beast, for he was the only one who could move the massive rock blocking the doorway. So he decided to just inflict a lot of pain on the beast by blinding his one and only eye. The next morning when the Cyclops let out his sheep the men hid under the sheep and snuck out the doorway.

Running down the hill, Odysseus foolishly yelled who he was back to the Cyclops(participial). When the Cyclops heard this, he prayed to Poseidon, god of the sea, to make sure Odysseus and his men never make it back home(appositive). Poseidon prevented them from getting home from many years until Athena, daughter of Zeus and goddess of wisdom, skills, and warfare, saved him and landed his naked body on his home land of Ithaca after his ship was destroyed by Zeus's thunderbolt(appositive). He was finally able to see his family once again.

Penelope's decision for picking a new husband was pretty similar to the time when I had to pick out another, hopefully, perfect snowboard. In the snowboard shop, I
found three Burton boards that I really liked (prepositional). I was lucky enough to be able to demo all three at the Burton Demo at Boyne Highlands, and I did the same trick on all three boards to get a feel for them. It was so hard to make a decision because I wanted the perfect board. Then, out of the blue, I found another awesome board that I wanted to try. I was able to pick the fourth board, instead of the initial three, very easily since it was such a great board. This decision was a lot like Penelope’s when it came to her new husband, because she also made a test to decide who the new man would be. Lying in her bed, Penelope came up with “the test of the bow” which meant the suitor had to bend and string Odysseus’ heavy bow and shoot it through the narrow holes in twelve axe heads set in a row (participial). None of the men could do it besides Odysseus, which at the time was disguised as a beggar. He eventually revealed himself to his beloved wife and Penelope’s heart was whole once again. Odysseus was the board out of the blue in my situation, for he just showed up that day after twenty years and soon enough got back together with his wife. When Penelope said to the beggar, Odysseus, “Friend, let me ask you first of all: who are you, where do you come from, of what nation/ and parents were you born?” (3. 90-92) It reminded me of the feeling I had when I saw the board, because I said to myself, “Where have you been hiding, you’re the best.” Right when I rode it, I knew it was the one I needed to have.

We all have obstacles in our way whether it be simple like picking out the perfect board, escaping an older sister, or more difficult like getting lost snowboarding in Colorado. As you can see, my life can be related to the epic “The Odyssey” as well as many other stories I’m sure. could add a bit more here...

Brach - AWESOME JOB!
Great support for your connections! Sentence variety = stellar!
PEER EDIT  “Allegory for Life”

Writer’s Name  B-Rad Izzo  Editor’s Name  Austin Edge  Hour 2

DIRECTIONS: Read carefully over your partner’s allegory paper, marking questions or suggestions IN THE MARGINS as you read. If a section is confusing, make a note of it! If you really like something, note that! If there are punctuation or spelling issues, point them out in your feedback!!

Be HONEST and CONSTRUCTIVE!

*** ONLY “CHECK” THE BUBBLE IF THE WRITER HAS FULLY COMPLETED THAT STEP!!

☐ The story features a CREATIVE title (NOT “Allegory for Life”)

☐ Is this in proper 5-paragraph essay format? Introduction (creative lead and central idea/thesis), 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion?

☐ Your partner has THREE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS to The Odyssey? What are they?

☐ Your partner has three PROPERLY FORMATTED quotations from the text. Do they support the paragraph?

☐ Contains properly punctuated simple, compound, and complex sentences.

☐ Your partner has HIGHLIGHTED and LABELED 3 each PARTICIPIAL, APPOSITIVE, and PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES.

☐ Uses VARIETY in VOCABULARY (Remember: “Salsa”, not “Ricecake”)

☐ The paper has been CAREFULLY edited and polished for punctuation

☐ The story has a nice, smooth “flow” where ideas are smoothly connected

☐ LENGTH: 1.5—2 pages typed double-spaced. (It is okay if this draft is not typed, but the final should be!!)

☐ FCAs appear on top of the paper. Are point values included?

☐ MLA format is followed (see handout for assistance and reminders if needed!) (-5 points if not followed!)

☐ What is one part of your partner’s writing that you really like? Why do you like it?

The first sentence
(I would have used Raftery ball)

☐ What is one thing that your partner could improve to make the writing better?

Add more

Editor Signature  [Signature]

THE WRITER OF THIS PAPER MUST ATTACH THIS EDITING SHEET TO HIS/HER FINAL COPY ALONG WITH THE ROUGH DRAFT.
ORDER WILL BE: FINAL COPY ON TOP, ROUGH DRAFT BEHIND THAT, EDITING SHEET ON BACK 😊
Outline/Planning: “The Odyssey”: An Allegory for Life (5 Paragraph Essay)

I. Introduction
   A. Catchy introduction (statistic, anecdote, rhetorical question, creative quotation)
   B. Central idea ___________________________ and 3 point thesis statement:
      ______________________________________
      ______________________________________
      ______________________________________
   C. ________________________________

II. Body
   A. First Connecting Idea between YOUR life and the epic poem
      I got lost in CO, he got lost at sea.
      ______________________________________
      ______________________________________
      ______________________________________
   B. SPECIFIC Supporting Details/Connections to “The Odyssey”
      1. current took him out to sea and the trails took me to wrong side of the Mtn.
      2. I had to stop at half-way houses he stopped on islands.
      3. ______________________________________
      4. ______________________________________
      5. ______________________________________
   ______________________________________

III. Body
   A. Second Connecting Idea between YOUR life and the epic poem
      My sister trapped me in a play house and I escaped, he was captured by cyclones and escaped
      ______________________________________
      ______________________________________
      ______________________________________
   B. SPECIFIC Supporting Details/Connections to “The Odyssey”
      1. I hid in her playhouse and scared her she trapped me.
      2. I found a flashlight and shone it in her eyes, and blinded her for a second. Then I ran.
      ______________________________________
      ______________________________________
      ______________________________________
3. Then she found me and hit me
   with a play sword that gave
   me a bruise

IV. Body

A. Third Connecting Idea between YOUR life and the epic poem
   I had to pick a snowball, Penelope had to pick a
   husband

B. SPECIFIC Supporting Details/ Connections to “The Odyssey”

1. I had to pick between 3 boards that
   I wanted

2. Luckily I got to demo them at the highlands. I did the same trick on all
   3 boards to see which felt best.

3. Then I found a different one that
   was awesome and ended up
   getting it.

III. Conclusion

A. Closing statements and an appeal to the “big picture” in terms of the essay’s meaning.

B. Restatement of central idea and thesis, often done in a creative way to give closure.

Other Notes/Reminders for Yourself:

  don't forget quote format