**ENGLISH / McCready NAME**

**5-Paragraph Essay Date Hour**

**Objective:** As part of a building-wide objective, all Innovation Central High School students will write a 5-paragraph essay in each core content area.

**Rationale:** The 5-paragraph essay is a classic, well-organized essay format that functions well for most high school writings tasks and can be adapted for higher level writing tasks.

**"It isn't given to us to know those rare moments when people are wide open and the slightest touch can wither or heal. A moment too late and we can never reach them any more in this world. They will not be cured by our most efficacious drugs or slain with our sharpest swords."**

-- F. Scott Fitzgerald, "The Freshest Boy" (1928)

**Prompt:** *This topic is adapted from the personal essay section of the Common Application accepted by many colleges from students applying for admission. You may imagine that as your writing purpose.*

*No one goes through life completely alone, not even the most solitary person. We are all influenced in some way, whether positively or negatively, by the people in our lives. Some people serve as examples of how not to live, while others show us the surest paths to the best outcomes. Not everyone we meet has a significant impact, but those who do leave traces that cannot be underestimated.* **Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.**

**Format:** A blank 5-paragraph essay outline is on the back of this paper. You are strongly encouraged to use it to plan your essay. Some other pre-writing decisions you will make include:

* My influential person:
* Words that describe my person:
* How this person has influenced me:
* My thesis statement: (\*see below)

\*Your paper must include a thesis statement which:

* serves as the main idea for the whole paper
* is debatable, but can be proven with reasons and evidence
* contains a superlative (an adjective with “most” or ending in “-est”)
* lists the three reasons you will explain and defend in the body of your paper
* appears as the last sentence of your Introduction (first) paragraph

1. Introduction
2. Attention Getter
3. Focus
4. Thesis Statement
5. Paragraph #2 – First Reason, developed with details and examples
6. Topic Sentence stating reason
7. Detail/Example #1
8. Detail/Example #2
9. Detail/Example #3
10. Closing Sentence
11. Paragraph #3 – Second Reason, developed with details and examples
12. Topic Sentence stating reason
13. Detail/Example #1
14. Detail/Example #2
15. Detail/Example #3
16. Closing Sentence
17. Paragraph #4 – Third Reason, developed with details and examples
18. Topic Sentence stating reason
19. Detail/Example #1
20. Detail/Example #2
21. Detail/Example #3
22. Closing Sentence
23. Conclusion
24. Restate thesis in different words
25. Provide closure for reader