**Checklist for Claim, Thesis, Evidence, Explanation**

**Thesis: BIG IDEA, the road map to the rest of your paper, Opinion based in fact, not everyone will agree with your thesis**

**Thesis criteria**

\_\_\_Thesis is complete because it restates and answers the prompt fully.

\_\_\_Thesis is an argument about the prompt because it says something about it. It does not just restate the prompt. There is always a “by” or a “because.”

\_\_\_Thesis answers the prompt in a way that can be argued. It is not just a universal truth; people can disagree with it.

\_\_\_Thesis indicates that there are many claims that can go under it.

**Claim: Opinion based in fact. Not everyone will agree with your opinion.**

**Claim Criteria:**

\_\_\_Claim is valid because the argument (opinion, conclusion) is based on specific evidence from the text.

\_\_\_Claim is relevant because the argument (opinion, conclusion) addresses the prompt and proves the thesis.

\_\_\_Claim (your argument) can be argued because not everyone will draw the same conclusions as you.

**Evidence: pieces of the text that you pull to create and support your claim**

**Evidence Criteria:**

\_\_\_Evidence is relevant to the claim it is supporting. It helps your reader see things the way you do.

\_\_\_Evidence, if paraphrased, has to be accurate to the text. You can’t say they went left when they went right. The essence of the story has to be there.

\_\_\_Evidence is used well because it relates to your claim; it supports your claim. (Your claim and evidence have to be a happily-married couple; no divorcees, no irreconcilable differences.)

\_\_\_Evidence is properly cited

**Explanation: the bread and butter of your paper, the thread that ties it all together**

**Explanation Criteria:**

\_\_\_Explanation makes the connection between evidence and claim. You can’t just tell me, “I had a great day. We ate biscuits.” What do biscuits have to do with a great day? Make that connection fully. (They’re a happy family, and explanation is the child that keeps them completely together. A baby can make or break that relationship.)

\_\_\_Explanation also brings back the evidence-claim connection back to the thesis. Take it from the very specific of the claim to the broadness of the thesis. Remember: every claim, evidence, and explanation are only there to prove the thesis.

\_\_\_Explanation can also round back to your real life. This is an opportunity to act like a Bookclub Connector!