**Expository Paragraph Writing Example - Santos**

**Example #1 – Impact of the Tsetse Fly on Africa**

**Prompt: Argue the impact of the Tsetse fly on African Civilizations**

**Example 1 Thesis Statement –**

The tsetse fly had the biggest impact on the development of the Mali civilization, as well as Ghana civilization because it caused many deaths within the empires and it impacted farming, ultimately causing food shortages and a very weak economy.

**Example 1 Paragraph 1 –**

The Mali and Ghana civilizations suffered many deaths, decreasing populations of both humans and cattle, due to being bitten by the tsetse fly. One ruler of the Mali Empire, named Sundiata II, was bitten by the tsetse fly in 1374, and was later killed due to being affected by the sleeping sickness (Hunt). A leader helps to provide organization throughout the empire, along with being in charge of controlling the people within the empire, but when the leader dies, the civilization as a whole becomes much weaker without their strong guiding figure.

**Example 1 Paragraph 2 –**

The tsetse fly caused cattle populations to greatly decrease, in turn forcing farmers in the Mali and Ghana civilizations to shift from their traditional ways of farming, to new methods that did not require cattle. Though not all cattle died, those that survived produced very little milk, if at all. "Cattle from North Africa could not survive below the Sahel because of the tsetse fly." (Willie 67) Typically, farmers used cattle in order to pull plows on their farms, which was a method that worked very well, but since cattle were greatly impacted by the sleeping sickness, they could no longer use this technique. As an alternative, Mali and Ghana farmers began to use tools such as hoes in order to break down soil in their communities. This new method required more people to finish, and it took more time to accomplish. In contrast, Egypt, an area that was not affected by the tsetse fly, quickly advanced into having large and successful cities, which developed much earlier.

**Expository Paragraph Writing 9th Block**

**Example #1 Questions**

1. What is the basic argument of the thesis (what is the clear, specific argument and the so what)?
2. Based on the example you read (and previous learning) – explain what is a body thesis statement?
3. What evidence does the author use to prove the body thesis statement? (This can be explained simply)
4. Explain how the evidence is analyzed in the example.
5. How well does the essay connect to the thesis statement?
6. How well does paragraph 1 transition to paragraph 2?