Writing with Good Support- The Book Thief

This is an in-class essay, but you may prepare your hook, a thesis statement, topic sentences and quotes at home. You may use your book and your imagery log. Use MLA for quote citations. This will be graded using the MYP essay rubric that is also available on our ALEC page.

Follow the step-by-step directions below to write well-developed paragraphs that answer the given prompt about The Book Thief.

Prompt: Liesel lived to be an old woman. Death says that he would like to tell the book thief about beauty and brutality, but those are things that she had lived. Explain how Zusak uses imagery to show that brutality and beauty can co-exist/exist simultaneously in one life.

Directions:

1. Review the prompt carefully. Decide on your position statement that answers how Zusak uses imagery and what that imagery proves throughout the story about brutality and beauty.
2. Write a 3 prong thesis first. Each body paragraph must have two chunks.
3. After your thesis, go back and write an interesting hook that leads naturally into your thesis. Remember that the average length of an intro paragraph is shorter than a body paragraph (5-8 sentences).
4. Start your first body paragraph, indenting the first line. Remember to start with a Topic Sentence that matches the first prong of your thesis.
5. Include AT LEAST 2 CD statements and appropriate CM statements that are more than a repetition of the statement. Be thoughtful about what Zusak’s use of imagery PROVES about beauty and brutality.
6. Include correct in-text citations for your quotes (at least 1 per body paragraph). Example: (Zusak 14). Your second example can be a detailed paraphrase of a scene.
7. Write a Conclusion Statement for the body paragraph that LINKS back to what your topic sentence says you are proving; think about how the imagery you described in the paragraph supports Zusak’s idea that beauty and brutality can co-exist in life.
8. Continue. Write another Topic Sentence and begin your next body paragraph based on the next prong of your thesis. Repeat until you have at least three body paragraphs.
9. Write a solid conclusion. Don’t just restate your thesis. Tie your ideas together neatly in a way that shows originality. End with a thematic statement that goes beyond the book to a statement about what it means to be human.
10. Re-read! Revise as time allows!