**Theory of Knowledge Essay Outline For Mr. Ferlazzo's Class**

A few things to keep in mind before using this outline:

\* This is a guide -- you do not necessarily have to follow it point by point. You do, however, need to ensure that these points are all covered somewhere in the essay.

\* Be careful about making blanket statements — everything, always, etc.

\* You do not have to have an answer for everything. If you have questions you are pondering, then say so.

\* Periodically look back to the sample essays for reminders of things that worked and things that did not.

\* Make sure everything you write is directly responding to the TOK prompt. If it says “consider CAS,” then discuss CAS. If it says “one more Area of Knowledge,” then discuss another Area of Knowledge in additions to one. Connect the topic sentence of each paragraph to your thesis statement/claim as well as the last sentence.

\* You might find it useful to first think which Areas of Knowledge you are going to write about, then think of examples in those Areas that illustrate your points, and then consider which Ways of Knowing were used to learn those specific AOK examples.

\* Don’t just give examples — tell stories with a beginning, middle and end.

**1. Copy the prompt you are using:**

**2. First Paragraph:**

\* Define key words and concepts said in the prompt -- for example, what is knowledge? What is faith?

\* In your thesis statement, rewrite the prompt in your own words and take a stand -- what do you think and why?

**3. Next Three Paragraphs (note, you should cover at least three Ways of Knowing, unless the prompt specifically mentions fewer):**

\* What is the Way of Knowing you will be exploring (Reason, Emotion, Perception, Language, Intuition, Memory, Imagination, Faith)?

\* What is your topic sentence and how does it connect to your thesis statement/claim?

\* What are the TOK concepts that you have learned through the textbook and through class discussion that you will be referring to in order to support your claim related to this Way of Knowing?

\* What are the stories from the TOK textbook and from your other knowledge (including personal examples) that you will be using to support that claim? (NOTE: THIS MIGHT BE A SEPARATE PARAGRAPH)

\* What is at least counter-claim? In other words, what might others who would not necessarily agree with you say? What would your response to them be? (NOTE: THIS MIGHT BE A SEPARATE PARAGRAPH)

\* How have you connected your last sentence to your thesis statement/claim?

**4. Following Three Paragraphs** **(note, you should cover at least three Areas of Knowledge, unless the prompt specifically mentions fewer) IMPORTANT -- Instead of making these into separate paragraphs, you may, instead, use AOK stories to support your claims in prior paragraphs to illustrate your points about different Ways Of Knowing:**

\* What is the first Area of Knowledge you will be exploring (Math, History, Arts, Human Sciences, Natural Sciences, Ethics, Religious Knowledge Systems, Indigenous Knowledge Systems)

\* What is your topic sentence and how does it connect to your thesis statement/claim?

\* What are the TOK concepts that you have learned through the textbook and through class discussion that you will be referring to in order to support your claim related to this Area of Knowledge?

\* What are the stories from the TOK textbook and from your other knowledge (including personal examples) that you will be using to support that claim? (NOTE: THIS MIGHT BE A SEPARATE PARAGRAPH)

\* What is at least counter-claim? In other words, what might others who would not necessarily agree with you say? What would your response to them be? (NOTE: THIS MIGHT BE A SEPARATE PARAGRAPH)

\* How have you connected your last sentence to your thesis statement/claim?

**5. Conclusion:**

How can you summarize your answer to the TOK writing prompt?