*A Christmas Carol* Argumentative Essay Outline

1. Paragraph 1
2. Hook (1-2 sentences):
3. Background (1-2 sentences): Summary of the story \* includes title, author’s name, and who, what, when, where, why, and how that someone unfamiliar with story would need to know.
4. Thesis:

The spirit who had the greatest influence in changing Scrooge’s life is Name of ghost selected because (X) first theme (moral/lesson) that ghost taught, (Y) second theme (moral/lesson) that ghost taught, and (Z) third theme (moral/lesson) that ghost taught.

1. Paragraph 2 (Reason listed as “X” in thesis)
2. Topic Sentence (Sent. 1): The Ghost of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ changed Scrooge’s life because it taught him insert (X)[\*example – money doesn’t buy happiness]
3. Example (Sent. 2): State the scene/event that ghost revealed to Scrooge, the negative trait and positive trait that this event caused in Scrooge.
4. Direct Quote (Sent. 3): TWO direct quotes: either negative trait quote and positive trait quote OR scene/event ghost showed Scrooge and positive trait quote – blend into one sentence
5. Explain/Analyze (Sent. 4): Analyze (pick parts/words of quotes that link to words in theme \*C and A)
6. Conclusion (Sent. 5): State ghost, two traits changed in Scrooge, and how/what demonstates this change (action he completed)
7. Paragraph 3 (Reason listed as “Y” in thesis)
8. Topic Sentence (Sent. 1): The Ghost of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ changed Scrooge’s life because it taught him insert (Y)[\*example – money doesn’t buy happiness]
9. Example (Sent. 2): State the scene/event that ghost revealed to Scrooge, the negative trait and positive trait that this event caused in Scrooge.
10. Direct Quote (Sent. 3): TWO direct quotes: either negative trait quote and positive trait quote OR scene/event ghost showed Scrooge and positive trait quote – blend into one sentence
11. Explain/Analyze (Sent. 4): Analyze (pick parts/words of quotes that link to words in theme \*C and A)
12. Conclusion (Sent. 5): State ghost, two traits changed in Scrooge, and how/what demonstates this change (action he completed)
13. Paragraph 4 (Reason listed as “Z” in thesis)
14. Topic Sentence (Sent. 1): The Ghost of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ changed Scrooge’s life because it taught him insert (Z)[\*example – money doesn’t buy happiness]
15. Example (Sent. 2): State the scene/event that ghost revealed to Scrooge, the negative trait and positive trait that this event caused in Scrooge.
16. Direct Quote (Sent. 3): TWO direct quotes: either negative trait quote and positive trait quote OR scene/event ghost showed Scrooge and positive trait quote – blend into one sentence
17. Explain/Analyze (Sent. 4): Analyze (pick parts/words of quotes that link to words in theme \*C and A)
18. Conclusion (Sent. 5): State ghost, two traits changed in Scrooge, and how/what demonstates this change (action he completed)
19. Paragraph 5 (Counterargument)
20. Transition (Sent. 1):

*On the other hand, some might argue that the spirit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_had the greatest influence on Scrooge because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

1. Acknowledge (Sent. 2):

*This might be a valid argument because indeed this spirit\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

1. Refute (Sent. 3):
2. Direct Quote (Sent. 4):
3. Explain/Analyze (Sent. 5):
4. Conclusion (Sent. 6):
5. Paragraph 6: Conclusion
6. Restate thesis:
7. Synthesize:
8. Conclusion: