Writing the 3-Point Essay over *The Great Gatsby*

Assignment:

1. Write a 3-point essay that explains and supports a thesis statement* over some aspect of *The Great Gatsby*.
2. Follow MLA style in writing your paper.
3. Document all specific facts, examples, and passages (paraphrased or quoted) from the novel.
4. Make sure the introduction ends in your thesis statement.
5. Make sure the conclusion is well developed and brings the paper to closure.
6. Make sure the main body consists of three well developed paragraphs. Each main body paragraph must begin with a general topic sentence that the paragraph explains and supports with specific evidence from the novel.

*Thesis Ideas:

Remember that your thesis is the one-sentence statement that you believe to be true and that you can explain and support with evidence from the novel.

a. Write a thesis statement about one of the characters from the novel.
b. Write a thesis statement about the setting or the conflicts in the novel.
c. Write a thesis statement about one of the literary elements in the novel, such as irony, symbolism, motif, or themes.
d. Choose two characters to compare or contrast through three points of major similarity or three points of major difference.

Before you write:

1. Carefully review your previous compositions. Identify any areas of weakness, and focus on avoiding them in this paper.
2. Decide carefully on your thesis statement.
3. Write a 3-point outline of the main points you will develop to explain and support your thesis.
4. Turn each of your main points into a general (not factual) topic sentence.
5. Take notes from the novel; find the facts, examples, and passages that will support each of your topic sentences and that you can use in developing your main body paragraphs.
6. Check with me in regard to any difficulties you encounter at any time in writing your paper.

After you write:

1. Edit your paper carefully in terms of content, structure, and mechanics.
2. Produce a final copy including your edits.