**“Significant Connections” Essay**

**Introduction**

**YOU SHOULD BEGIN IN AN “IMPACTING”/THOUGHT-PROVOKING WAY!**

* You have a few choices how to begin here:

You could start with **a quotation** (not necessarily) from any of your texts, that overviews what topic your essay addresses (I.e. Survival OR the theme that you have chosen).

* You could begin with **a technique** (like you did in your speeches):

**E.g. Rhetorical question/s**

**Statement**

**Emotive words**

**Statistic(s)/Fact(s)**

**THEN:**

You need to outline your **topic** (I.e. The nature of survival), your “**text titles”** and **author/directors** and **a general summary of the points that you will discuss.**

**Here is an example:**

*“It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can best manage change.” (Leon C. Megginson)*

*It is evident that human beings approach their own survival in individual ways. Circumstances can not always be controlled, however how people react, adjust and adapt to unexpected situations, can be. The texts: “Rabbit Proof Fence,” directed by Philip Noyce, “Touching the Void,” written by Joe Simpson, “The Blind Side,” directed by John Lee Hancock and “I Know Why the Caged Bird Still Sings,” written by Maya Angelou, all address a person’s ability to respond courageously to change, obstacles and fear. It is when individuals in these texts harness their remaining strength and choose to pursue “survival” that they actually do overcome their circumstances.*

**BODY**

**EACH TEXT WILL HAVE ITS OWN PARAGRAPH/S**

**Format:**

**First sentence:** Outline your **text title, author/director** and the **aspect/s of the topic** (The nature of survival) that you will discuss.

**E.g.** *In “Touching the Void,” by Joe Simpson, Joe presents that to truly survive difficult circumstances, you need to draw on previous experiences where you have been challenged and have gained knowledge of your environment.*

**Expand with examples from the text:** Outline where this point is shown using specific evidence from the text to support your ideas.

E.g. *This aspect of survival is shown in the text when Joe and Simon are on a bivvi site, climbing Siula Grande. Joe remembers being on a similar ledge with Ian Whittaker two years earlier, when they climbed the South-West side of Les Petits Drus. Joe and Ian had climbed up a 2,000 foot spire and had nestled into their sleeping bags, securing themselves to the cliff wall by a fixed safety rope “strung between an old ring peg and a spike of rock.” Suddenly they dropped through the air, “plummeting down into the 2,000-foot abyss” only to be secured by their safety line.*

**Summarise what the reader/viewer learns about your topic from this information:**

E.g. *Joe learns that he must always clip in to the environment he is climbing or resting on. If he (and Ian) had not been secured to the wall, they would have most certainly plummeted to their death. Joe’s wisdom of this situation is shown in the next section where he says: “I tiptoed to the right, stopping to drive a screw before launching up the side of the cascade.” The reader is shown that previous experiences enable us to be more informed about present circumstances. Joe is now aware of the dangers of climbing on steep terrain and would not be caught without a safety line in future expeditions.*

* **At the end of your second text discussion, you should compare your findings (about the theme) to the first text.**

*In comparison, Molly, Daisy and Gracie also use their knowledge of previous experiences to survive their abduction to Moore River Settlement. Molly knows that the weather will cover their tracks and if they rest when it is raining, the tracker, Moodoo will not be able to find them. Molly has also been told that the Rabbit Proof Fence joins the four parts of Australia, so if she follows this wire, she believes she will make it home. Like Joe and Simon, Molly uses previous knowledge to help her escape danger and survive. It is this previous wisdom that enables characters to escape successfully and it “calculates” their decisions towards an ultimate goal.*

* **At the end of your third text discussion, you should compare your findings (about the theme) to the first and/or second text.**
* **At the end of your fourth text discussion, you should compare your findings (about the theme) to the first, second and/or third text.**

**Conclusion**

**Your conclusion is a summary of what YOU HAVE LEARNED about your theme (I.e. Survival) from writing your essay.**

* **Refer to your theme**
* You can refer to your “text titles” and authors/directors (not entirely necessary)
* **As stated above, ensure that you include your own mature, insightful summary of what you have learned about survival through these texts.**

*A person’s survival is determined by their decision-making, attitude and ability to adapt to the surroundings that they are in. This is evident in the texts: “Rabbit Proof Fence,” directed by Philip Noyce, “Touching the Void,” written by Joe Simpson, “The Blind Side,” directed by John Lee Hancock and “I Know Why the Caged Bird Still Sings,” written by Maya Angelou; here key characters faced life-threatening circumstances and effectively utilised the physical, mental, environmental and at times, social resources that were available to them. The creators of these texts focused on the positivity and ingenuity of these characters whilst also revealing their times of grief and struggle. This reality of a human being’s experience encouraged readers/viewers that it does not take super-human strength to survive but that it requires a series of difficult choices made by determined people.*