Writing Conference

1. There are many format differences between my *To Kill a Mockingbird* essay and my *Tuesday’s With Morrie* essay. In my summer essay my intro paragraph had absolutely no format whatsoever and had a lot of pointless plot sentences. I had NONE of the format requirements (attention getter, intro to topic, back round, points, or thesis). Also some of my paragraphs had one piece of evidence and some had two, but neither were very strong pieces of evidence. I also had 6 paragraphs which is unnecessary. In my TKAM essay I noticed a HUGE improvement in format; I met all the requirements and didn’t have any pointless plot. I also had two pieces of evidence in all my supporting paragraphs that were very strong and that could be used to support my thesis.
2. There are many areas of improvement between my essays. In my summer essay I had no thesis and had used “I”. I also gave SO much plot, you probably wouldn’t need to read the book if you read my essay. For instance I decided to tell you about how “Morrie was a sweet man who did not give out any grades in his class and if you kissed him goodbye you got extra credit” which had nothing to do with anything I was talking about. In my TKAM essay I did not use “I” and also did not give any unnecessary plot. The only plot I used was to explain my argument when I said “Mayella Ewell is the reason Tom Robinson is in the courtroom, a person he should not show empathy for”.
3. Elements about the writing format that make it easier is that you can come up with your own attention getter and can really think of a good quote that supports your ideas. Personally I think it is fun to experiment with different quotes and you can show your personality a little in the attention getter. There are also some areas that are difficult for me. As far as argumentative paragraphs go I notice I have trouble coming up with a counterpoint. I think it is because while I’m trying to support my opinion I need to explain the opposite of my opinion which I find to be difficult.
4. My overall goal in writing is just to expand my ideas and come up with good thesis’ that make the reader think or change their mind on the novel. An area I believe to be most critical to improve is to not get nervous about the time I have to write an essay. I noticed while being timed to write about Lamb to the Slaughter and The Bet I got nervous and couldn’t think of anything else to say. I know this is important skill to master because on the SAT you have to write an essay in a short amount of time as well. So definitely timed essays is something I need to work on in the future.