Long Composition Codes

Directions: On each draft of your long composition, mark the following codes. You may handwrite the codes on a printed copy. Or, if you’re very tech-savvy, you can insert them in your document where appropriate.

1. Highlight or bold the thesis.

2. **TS = Transition Sentence/Topic Sentence.** This code applies for topic and conclusion sentences, as well as sentences that serve as transitions internally in the body paragraphs.
   - A good topic sentence serves a few purposes in your writing. At the very least, your topic sentence should connect to the main or next idea in the paragraph. A strong topic sentence will help to transition from the last or to the next idea as well.
   - A conclusion sentence is also truly a transition sentence. It should wrap up the idea of the current paragraph and help to transition to the next ideas.

3. **I = Introduce Quote.** Connect the quote with your words. Provide relevant context for your quotes and examples.
   - Examples:
     - According to the article, “at least 20,000 kids are suffering from emotional disorders, behavioral issues, or unstable living arrangements” (Yarett 2).
     - Hurricane Katrina related problems are not over for Mississippi and Louisiana, because “at least 20,000 kids are suffering from emotional disorders, behavioral issues, or unstable living arrangements” (Yarett 2).
     - The immediate problems with Katrina might be over, but the long term consequences are seen in the children: “at least 20,000 kids are suffering from emotional disorders, behavioral issues, or unstable living arrangements” (Yarett 2).

4. **C = in-text citation is formatted correctly following quote.** After the quote make sure your citations look like this:
   - According to the article, “at least 20,000 kids are suffering from emotional disorders, behavioral issues, or unstable living arrangements” (Yarett 2).

5. **A = Analysis.** Whenever you provide evidence from the book, whether it be paraphrased or quoted, you must analyze it and explain how it contributes to your thesis. Ask yourself- is this a paraphrase of information from the text? Or, does this explain/analyze how something connects to my thesis?

6. **TH = Theme.** Since the prompt asks you to explain how your thesis is important to the work as a whole, you need to discuss theme. Think about how your thesis and the evidence you chose highlight a specific theme. The most natural places to discuss theme are in your introduction and conclusion.
   - In your introduction, you can hook the reader with a discussion of a theme. Look at the “hooks” handout for ideas.
   - At the very least, you should include discussion of theme in your conclusion. This will help you end with insights, instead of simply restating your ideas again.