**ENG 4CI Thesis Development Process**

**Select one of the following statements to set a theme for your essay:**

⏮Humans desire structure and order in a chaotic world

⏮One must often overcome a series of struggles on the way to independence

⏮Humans can adapt in the face of adversity

**You have chosen your statement to set the tone for your essay, now what?**

Most essays explore the topic through a series of three subtopics. Look for three common elements you find occurring in the stories.

***Humans desire structure and order in a chaotic world Theme***

To find focus, first ask yourself why this character is seeking out structure and order. Then ask, in what three ways a character may be seeking out structure and order as his or her world is crumbling down (physical environment, communication with others, thinking process?)

***One must often overcome a series of struggles on the way to independence Theme***

To find focus, ask yourself what a person needs to overcome obstacles. Considerations could include: coping strategies, adaptability, playing on personal strengths, drive

 OR

What are some obstacles that may get in the way of reaching a goal? Considerations may include: ability/disability, external factors that we can’t control, wrong time/wrong place (chance)

***Humans can adapt in the face of adversity Theme***

To find focus, ask yourself what three traits does someone need to be able to change (adapt) themselves in response to a particular situation, environment, or need? Here are some possible considerations: perseverance, goal/purpose, motivation, self-awareness, external support, drive

 OR

What three ways must people adapt? Possible considerations include: physical environment, social environment, emotionally, mentally, morally

**Developing your Thesis**

1. Go over the chart you received comparing and *The Knife of Never Letting Go* by highlighting common points. Define these common points in one word or one very short phrase. These will form the basis of your points of comparison in your essay. Have a peer look over your work to assess the “strength” of your points.
2. Develop a 1-2 sentence thesis statement to define your purpose in writing the essay. Be sure to list the three common points you will address. This will be checked by your teacher.
3. Develop your planner by using the provided chart.

**How to determine if your point is strong:**

Can I find multiple quotes and evidence from the story to back my claim?

Does the point relate and support my thesis?