**Sample Topic, Elaboration, Conclusion Sentences**

Topic Sentence: Title/Author/Genre/lit device/statement of theme

☹ In the **poem** “**My Papa’s Waltz**” **Roethke** uses **revolting diction to reveal the theme that an innocent act can quickly escalate to abuse.**

☺ In the **poem** “**My Papa’s Waltz**” **Roethke** employs **playful diction** to reveal the **theme that family memories can happen any time.**

Elaboration: a sentence of plot that helps the reader understand your topic sentence

☹ When the father comes home from work it is clear he has been drinking whiskey and takes his hard day of work out on his young son.

☺ When the father comes home from a long day at work, the first thing he does is dance with his son.

Conclusion: make a visible connection back to the theme - don’t restate the topic sentence

☹ Obviously, the father in this poem treats his son in such a way that the son will fear him, especially when he comes home late from work.

☺ Roethke make it clear to the reader that the father and son share a special bond; even though the father may have to work late hours, he puts his son first when he walks through the door.