Five Paragraph Essay

Introductory paragraph

1. Topic of your essay

George’s essay: how community affects an individual

Whitehead’s essay: how people know they are “New Yorkers.”

1. Summary of the outside source:
2. Name of the author
3. Title of the essay
4. Genre (essay)
5. Author’s thesis
6. 1-2 ways the author supports his/her thesis
7. Mention how the author concludes his/her essay
8. Last sentence is *your thesis*

Sample Introductory:

High school can be intimidating for many young people, especially those who felt isolated in earlier school experiences. However, high school can offer a community and a new opportunity for friends and personal growth which can have a powerful impact and make that person better. Nelson George in his essay “Fort Green Dreams” writes about the impact his community had on him as a young writer and young man in the 1980s. In his essay, George writes about meeting people such Spike Lee, Chris Rock, and Wesley Snipes, all of whom were developing in their artistic careers and how they all helped each other to mature and create as artists. Nelson George concludes by showing how he became a mentor for young artists and how he defined success as patiently building a large body of artistic work. In my experience, my group of friends who met randomly in a high school history class became pivotal for me in developing who I became and understanding how I would consider “success” to look like for me.

There are many traits of New York City that make it a unique place to live and that make its residents proud to call themselves New Yorkers. One of these traits is that the city is “awake” all night, which makes living here more convenient and fun. Colson Whitehead in his essay “Colossus of New York” writes about his appreciation for the uniqueness of New York City. Whitehead’s argument is that people know they are New Yorkers when they are more attached to a New York that “was,” they remember buildings that no longer are there, than the New York that stands in front of them. Whitehead also mentions buildings that know us back such as apartments that get together and talk about their former residents. Whitehead ends his essay stating that New York will go on without us, and we must be humbled by that. To conclude, I believe the most important aspect of New York that makes me proud to be a New Yorker is that I can get around at all times of day and this is what formed my most memorable experience as a New Yorker.