The Great Gatsby and Good Will Hunting

Assignment question:

To what extent does the texts represent how an individual can shape and influence another’s path in life

Thesis:

Both texts contain themes of people fundamentally influencing others paths in life and being either a positive or negative influence on the main characters.

Argument 1:

The people who impact the main characters are those who help them find happiness

Argument 2:

The characters who shape the path of the main character can often have a positive and/or negative impact on the main characters.

Argument 3:

Whether the impact of a character is positive or negative can be ambiguous and is up to the interpretation of the reader.

**Point:** in your first sentence state the point that you are making in your paragraph

**Reason:** in your second sentence, state the reason WHY that point is significant (important to the question)

**Example:** Now spend a few sentences giving an example to illustrate your point – this is evidence from the text

**Explain:** Now spend time explaining what the quote means (this is also the 3-step chain of evidence approach)

**Analyse:** tell the marker in a sentence or two, how the quote applies to the question at hand – how it relates to the point you are making – why it is relevant!

**Concluding sentence:** finish with a concluding sentence with an overall statement that explains how the paragraph proves your thesis.

Introduction

In both real-life and in stories people write, typically the greatest impacts on people’s character and outcomes are the people around them. This means the bonds we share as people are play an important role in determining our personality and the personalities of others. This is also true in the texts analysed in this essay, *The Great Gatsby* and *Good Will Hunting*. In these stories, the supporting characters play an important role influencing the protagonists Jay Gatsby and Will Hunting in their respective fictional worlds. In the first text the protagonist, Jay Gatsby, is an incredibly wealthy man living in New York in the 1920’s where he hosts extravagant parties in hopes of being reunited to his previous lover Daisy. Daisy has the most influence on Gatsby throughout the book even without communicating with him for 5 years as in this time Gatsby has become obsessed and essentially dedicates his life to achieve his goal. In the film Will, a poor janitor who was abused as a child but who is a genius, to escape jail time works with a university professor and therapist to overcome his problems and help him achieve success. Both the professor and therapist have a large impact on Wills character however the therapist is more successful and tries to help him find happiness in his life. Even from this basic synopsis one can see that clearly, to at least some extent, the characters in the texts represent how an individual can shape and influence another’s path in life. The remaining portions of this essay will discus the supporting characters who fundamentally influence the main characters and the outcomes of these influences.

Body 1

In both texts the people who impact the main characters are those who help them find happiness in their lives.

Body 2

Body 3

Conclusion