Marcus Stevens

Kurt Retenauer

Exploring Literature and Writing

April 15, 2016

“Although the world is full of greedy, narcissistic, self-centered, egotistic individuals, singular pursuit of one’s dreams and goals is the only way one can achieve their life’s purpose, sometimes at great sacrifice.”

1. Introduction
   1. State Thesis

1. Common theme of ambition

B. Discussion of thesis as it relates to the Alchemist

C. Segue to applying thesis to the real world

1. Historical Figures Who Pursued Their Life’s Purpose At A Great Expense
   1. Rockefeller
   2. Vanderbilt
   3. Frick
2. Presidents
   1. Bill Clinton
      1. A high achiever who presided over prosperous times in America
      2. A balanced budget and a time of relative peace
      3. However, was revealed to be morally bankrupt and unethical,
         * 1. Sacrificing his reputation and that of his family name
           2. Today, people associate the name with untrustworthiness and his wife is collateral damage of his personal life.
           3. Ironically, Bill is not suffering; Hillary has been painted with that same brush, but cannot shake the consequences of her reputation for untrustworthiness
   2. John F. Kennedy
      1. Safety Concerns upon his arrival in Dallas, Texas on the day he died
         * 1. His ambition outweighed safety precautions
           2. Ignored the consequences that would occur as a result of his death (family, America, Office of the Presidency)
3. Application Of The Theme and Characteristics To The People Described Above
   1. Discussion of the similarities of the profound contributions to America of the Historical Figures and Presidents
   2. Discussion of the similarities of the sacrifices of the Historical Figures and Presidents
   3. Discussion of how The Alchemist is a sketch of enduring human nature
4. Conclusion
   1. Restate thesis
   2. Talk how the thesis relates to human nature in the real world and the Alchemist
   3. Makes the reader see greed and ambition from a different perspective