Paper 1 Outline

Prompt: How did the Great Fire of London alter the reality and/or worldview of seventeenth-century Englishmen and women?

Thesis: The Great Fire of London created immediate, but short lived turmoil however it allowed residents of London to bond in accomplishing the monumental task of rebuilding the city in a way that allowed them to keep their identity.

1. The fire destroyed four-fifths of London (Wall 4)
   1. Four-fifths of the historical, commercial, topographical, and imaginative center of London burned within four days, the Fire threw existing and potential changes into calcined relief, bringing to a culturally universal level the history and meaning and shape of London to Londoners
2. Londoners felt a loss of identity due to the fire
   1. Place names were functionally intrinsic to – not just traditionally associated with – the places they named. What happens to a city, to a culture, when its oldest, most reliable signs suddenly and completely lose their referents? (Wall 3)
3. A change of the perception of their identity changed their cultural perception
   1. The aftermath of the Fire produced a shift in the cultural perception fo space from that of setting to that of enabling context. (Wall 4)
4. The turmoil was short-lived
   1. Due to back-to-back disasters(the plague) the way the fire was responded to was with heightened intensity at first but in the end it was just short-lived. (Wall 6)
5. London was thought to be rebuilt and stronger after
   1. Now, like a maiden queen, she will behold, From her high turrets, hourly suitors come; The East with incense, and the West with gold, Will stand, like suppliants, to receive her doom. (Dryden 1186)
6. London got a new city that was built safer, modern to that time, and publicity by all of Europe because of the fire