STAAR Essay Organizer
**You have approximately an hour and twenty minutes per essay, and you need to be clear** **and organized. This handout should help you organize your thoughts and manage your time.**

**Introduction-** *10 minutes* **(3-4 sentences)**
Global statement or hook: *You can use a statement that is mostly true about humanity or you can hook the reader with a metaphor or quote.*
Reflection over the prompt: *Reflect upon what the prompt is asking.*
Thesis: *Your thesis should be what your entire essay will be about.*

**Body Paragraph 1-** *30 minutes* **(8-10 sentences)**
Topic Sentence: *This is the main idea of the entire paragraph.*
Claim: *What are you proving?*
Evidence: *Specific detail to reinforce your claim.*
Commentary: *Analyze how this detail reinforces the claim.*
Claim: *What are you proving?*
Evidence: *Specific detail to reinforce your claim.*
Commentary: *Analyze how this detail reinforces the claim.*
Transition/Concluding Sentence: *This sentence may include a transition word, and it concludes the idea in the paragraph.*

**Body Paragraph 2-** *30 minutes* **(8-10 sentences)**
Topic Sentence: *This is the main idea of the entire paragraph.*
Claim: *What are you proving?*
Evidence: *Specific detail to reinforce your claim.*
Commentary: *Analyze how this detail reinforces the claim.*
Claim: *What are you proving?*
Evidence: *Specific detail to reinforce your claim.*
Commentary: *Analyze how this detail reinforces the claim.*
Transition/Concluding Sentence: *This sentence may include a transition word, and it concludes the idea in the paragraph.*

**Conclusion-** *10 minutes* **(3-4 sentences)**
Circle back to introduction: If you started with a metaphor/ illustration/analogy or quote go back to that and reinforce the idea.
Reinforce Thesis: Go back to your thesis to reiterate your point.