ENC 1102: Body Paragraph Example and Non-Example

1. A Fine Model of a Body Paragraph
2. **Clear topic sentence—The topic is clear, but it’s general—doesn’t offer commentary.**
3. *Text evidence is a mixture of direct quotations and paraphrase. Quotations are focused.*
4. Commentary explains how the quote relates to the topic sentence.
5. Transition sentences move the reader to the next thought.

**Lengel, the store manager, is a thorn in Sammy’s side.** *We suspect this friction from the very first interaction between Lengel and the beautiful customer with whom Sammy finds himself infatuated: “‘Girls, this isn’t the beach’” (515). The boss then continues his cringe-inducing lecture since he cannot imagine a world in which teenagers are anything but “decently dressed when [they] come in here” (515).* For Lengel, the logical way to deal with rule breakers is to pretend they don’t exist-and that’s exactly what he does. *For instance, he refuses to dialogue reasonably with the girls, instead kicking them out of the store with no explanation other than “it’s our policy” (515).* Furthermore, Lengel’s rigidity overrides all Sammy’s desires at the moment of the story’s climax: *he and creates a scene that incites Sammy to defend a new generation*. Bottom line, Lengel’s strict persona symbolizes the straight-laced 1950s world which a new generation is gladly leaving behind. Lengel wants Sammy to join him in embracing the old ways of conservative dress and blind acceptance of authority. But try as he might, the end result of forcing his traditional outlook on a younger crowd is a lost cause: the girls drive away abruptly, and Sammy—caught between the old and the new—quits what he’s always known because of fresh possibilities, not stale familiarity.

1. A Sad Little Model of a Body Paragraph with Too Much Story Telling—Off Topic

Lengel, the store manager is Sammy’s manager. The girls come into the story wearing bathing suits. They may have been to the beach already, or maybe they are headed to the beach. Queenie is looking for herring snacks, and they go up and down the aisles looking for the item. Eventually Lengel spots them. He doesn’t say much at first, but he walks over and states to Queenie and her friends, “‘Girls, this isn’t the beach’” (515). They blush. Plaid and Big Tall Gooney Gooney are not as pretty as Queenie. They also don’t say much. Queenie says that they are dressed appropriately. When Lengel turns his back on them. Sammy is quite upset at the embarrassment, of course. He is a teenager himself who is interested in the girls—Queenie especially. In fact, he daydreams about being at her house. He mentions her feet and of course her bikini….