6 Things You Should Know

For this assignment, you are to pick a topic about which you are both passionate and knowledgeable, and one that is unique to you specifically....

Requirements:

- You must have a title that mimics the sample provided. Remember capitalization rules!
- Your essay will be a total of 6 paragraphs. Each paragraph will begin with a **bolded** topic sentence that creatively introduces the topic.
- Each body paragraph must be elaborated on with a **minimum** of 6 sentences. Personal anecdotes, description, analogies, figurative language, questions/answers... Be creative! This is how you demonstrate your knowledge of the subject.
- Be mindful of how you organize your “6 Things” (most to least important, or save the best for last?)
- You need to incorporate at least one image into your article.
- This must be typed and printed.

Rubric 6 Things You Should Know

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MLA Format</th>
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<td>Your heading and essay follows MLA format</td>
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<td>Capitalized appropriately and centered</td>
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<th>Headings</th>
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<td>Each heading is properly capitalized, concise, and creative. Each serves as an interesting topic sentence for a body paragraph.</td>
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<th>Explanations</th>
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<td>Each entry is at least 6 sentences long and both clearly and creatively elaborates on the topic. Provides personal anecdotes and vivid description. Word choice and voice should be unique.</td>
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<th>Organization</th>
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<td>Your entries are purposefully organized.</td>
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<th>Picture(s)</th>
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<td>Your picture(s) enhance the article and are placed in a visually appealing way.</td>
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<th>Conventions</th>
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<td>It is clear you have proofread and spell checked your writing</td>
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Total ________/25
6 Things You Should Know About Being a Pro Rodeo Cowboy

Dusty Tuckness could have played football in college. Instead, he turned to the rodeo.

Updated: October 17, 2011, 12:48 PM ET
By Dusty Tuckness, as told to Ron Feemster | ESPN the Magazine

Dustin Snipes for ESPN the Magazine- That's no clown suit -- Dusty wears pads and knee braces to prevent injuries.

This story appears in the Oct. 17 issue of ESPN the Magazine.

Stepping between a bucked bull rider and an 1,800-pound beast requires courage and super-speedy reflexes. Dusty Tuckness has both, which helped him become the Pro Rodeo Cowboy Association's 2010 bullfighter of the year.

1. NEVER TRUST A BULL. "Our job is to save the cowboys. The stakes are high; a bull can wipe us out at any moment. So I approach every animal like he's the baddest bull I'll ever face. At the same time, I'm also confident in my own abilities and know that I can outmaneuver them all."

2. IT'S LIKE FOOTBALL BUT WITH A BIGGER, MEANER OPPONENT. "I played high school football and was good enough to play in college. I ended up choosing the rodeo instead, but a lot of the same conditioning and footwork from football still applies, such as the cuts I made as a running back. I still have an opponent to beat, after all -- even if he does weigh about 1,500 pounds more than a linebacker."

3. MAINTAIN YOUR COMPOSITION. "Nothing is more important than being calm. A lot of guys worry about what could happen and start to get hesitant, and then all of a sudden something awful happens. By the time stuff starts going through my mind, I'm usually beneath the bull and it's too late to think."

4. INJURIES COME WITH THE JOB. "If I keep a cowboy from getting hooked, I'll dang sure get hooked instead. And I've been hooked in some weird places. I've broken my ankles, ribs, hands, fingers and even my big toe. The worst was when I got knocked out after a blow to the jaw. In general, though, I'm always going for the bull's head. Having him be able to see me and feel me is how I protect myself."

5. THIS IS NO CLOWN SUIT. "I wear knee braces and bullfighting shorts to prevent injuries. The shorts have pads on the thighs, hips and tailbone, sort of like a football girdle. I'll still feel it when a bull hits me, but it absorbs some of the shock. My head is the one part of my body I keep away from the bull. Everything else I'll let get beat up."

6. ENJOY THE ADVENTURE OF IT ALL. "I love jumping over a charging bull. That's just me; the meaner the bull, the more fun I have. People don't usually understand that attraction, but I love doing what I do every day. This is my career. Thankfully, it's fun."
6 Things You Should Know...

**Step 1: Practice and Brainstorm Main Topics**

1. Choose a character from a book or movie.
2. List 6 topics that that character could (and should) write about.
4. Now, brainstorm for yourself. Remember: Your topic should be as individualized and unique as possible.

**Katniss Everdeen—6 Things You Should Know About _________________ (MAIN TOPICS)**

1. Surviving in the wild
2. Inciting a Revolution
3. Being the sole provider for your family
4. Being an archer
5. Being in love with two people at once
6. Who to trust

**Step 2: Brainstorming Subtopics**

You have a list of possible main topics about which to write. Next, you will select the one that will make the best article (for you to write and others to read) and brainstorm ideas for possible subtopics.

1. What makes a “great” topic for this assignment?
2. What subtopics fall under that main topic? Are there at least 6?
3. How should you organize your brainstorm? Why?
4. Go!
5. Finish early? Do another… Who knows? It may be better than your first.

**Example: Katniss Everdeen— (MAIN TOPIC WITH SUBTOPICS)**

6 Things You Should Know About **Surviving in the Wild**

1. Edible plants
2. Finding shelter
3. Finding food
4. Finding water
5. Building a fire
6. Staying positive
Step 3: Drafting

Now that you’ve selected your topic and subtopics, it’s time to write your essay!

1. You are to write a full draft of your essay before you hop on a computer and type it.
2. Each subtopic must begin with a clear and creative topic SENTENCE.
3. Compare the brainstormed TOPICS with the topic SENTENCES below...

**6 Things You Should Know About Surviving in the Wild**

1. Which plants will keep me alive and which will poison me?
2. It’s hot! And cold! And windy! And blizzardy! I need shelter!
3. Starving to death is a long and painful process I’d rather avoid.
4. The average human is approximately 60% water. I’d like to keep it that way.
5. It’s dark and cold out here. Time to rub two sticks together. KIDDING!
6. Ditch the baditude.

4. Each topic sentence must be followed by details related to the topic sentence. These may include: descriptions, anecdotes, analogies, statistics, etc., or anything else that will help to fully develop your topic in a way that both demonstrates your knowledge AND keeps your audience engaged. These 6 body paragraphs must be a MINIMUM of 6 sentences each.

Step 4: Revise and Publish- Final draft must be typed, in MLA format, with a photo included. It must be printed for presentations/gallery walk in class. Remember to check it against your rubric BEFORE you hit print!