**Essay Outline Partial Example**

**A. Compare and contrast the effects of deferred dreams on Walter and Troy’s lives. Consider the impact on their jobs, decision-making, family and other relationships, and personalities.**

**Thesis:** Walter and Troy have become so focused on their lost dreams that they destroy their relationships by obsessing over futile ways to solve their problems.

**Topic Sentence 1:** Walter, who wants to be a respected businessman, focuses only on getting money, while Troy, who wanted to be a Major League baseball player, focuses entirely on trying to protect himself and his family from further damage at the hands of white people.

**Evidence 1:** “Money is life.”

Analysis: While money is important, Walter is ignoring other important things, such as the happiness and respect of his family. He doesn’t see that he is driving a wedge between himself and Ruth and losing respect from his sister and mother in his pursuit for money.

**Evidence 2:** “You can be anything you want”

Analysis: As soon as Walter receives the money, he imagines that all his problems are gone and that his and his family’s future is already secured. He ignores that he has yet to do anything productive with the money or rebuild the relationships with his family members.

**Evidence 3:** Troy continues to shop at Bella’s over the A&P, even though Bella charges more.

Analysis: Although Troy constantly complains about having no money, he is willing to spend more money at a Black-owned business to avoid the danger of being taken advantage of at the white-owned A&P.

**Evidence 4:** The white man will never let you get ahead in football.

Analysis: Cory has the chance to go to college on a football scholarship, but Troy refuses to consider it. He ignores the fact that a white recruiter is coming to sign him, only seeing that the white man may deny Cory an opportunity as Troy was previously denied. Ironically it is Troy who takes this opportunity from Cory by not signing the papers.

**Topic Sentence 2:** Walter and Troy have become so embittered by the loss of their dreams that they view everyone around them, including their own families, as enemies to be fought off rather than allies in their fight.

**Topic Sentence 3:** Both men are eventually redeemed. Walter redeems himself by regaining his dignity and respect for his family when he rejects Lindners money. Troy is redeemed not by his own acts, but by his family’s understanding and forgiveness.