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Cover Letter

I chose my topic based on the papers I have written in the past. My primary focus throughout this class has been on the American Dream and economics in *The Great Gatsby*, so I wanted to pick a topic that revolved around that. After deciding to write about the Gatsby Curve, I started researching to find sources about it because I did not know precisely what it was. It wasn't terrible trying to find resources, but I found it hard to find evidence supporting some of my specific claims that pertained to my thesis. I also formed my thesis based on my research about the Gatsby Curve because I discovered that Gatsby is ironically an outlier. It also evolved into revolving around the American Dream, because I talk about that later in the paper in my counterargument.

All of the prelims for this paper helped me to organize it better than the ones in the past. The evolving annotated bibliography also helped because I was able to keep all of my sources in one place. When it came to my revision and argument strategy, it also evolved as I went. I've rewritten and revised different parts of my paper countless times to ensure it is as perfect as possible. I conveyed my motive well at the beginning of the paper with my context and thesis. I used a quote from *The Great Gatsby* as my hook and then transitioned to making my stance for the essay clear. Readers should care about my argument because it provides context about the book itself and a different way of reading the story.

I chose to make my counterargument about the American Dream and how some readers may think that Gatsby's wealth is a product of it, instead of a product of illegal activities that contributed to him being an outlier on the Gatsby Curve. I think that this strengthened my

argument because of the evidence I had to support that my claim was true. I added complexity with how I explained my evidence in detail and related it to the thesis. I had multiple sources to support my different claims from *The Great Gatsby*. I also left the reader with the conclusion that Gatsby's life is not about the American Dream because his dreams did not come true. He is an outlier on the Gatsby Curve because he built his wealth off shady foundations and ultimately died because of his lifestyle.