**Prompt/Task: Do people have to be highly competitive in order to succeed?**

**Sample Introduction:**

***General Statement:*** It has been said that “only the fittest may survive” calling into the question the role and worthiness of competition in our society. While competition may drive humans to succeed, it can also lead to poor decisions and tragedy. When people become too competitive and lose their focus, they are less likely to act fairly in an attempt to gain success regardless of what it takes. Ironically, what they usually find is failure instead. ***Introduce Examples:*** This is proven in William Golding’s novel, Lord of the Flies, and in the recent case of Long Island students who cheated on their SATs to get ahead. ***Thesis (answer the question):*** In Golding’s novel, competition proves to be deadly among the island’s boys whose society turns savage, while on Long Island, several competitive students faced serious repercussions as a result of their decision to cheat.

**Topic Sentence – Body Paragraph #1:**

In William Golding’s novel, some of the boys become so desperate for power that their competitiveness actually leads to several deaths and their failure to survive while stranded on an island. (*When writing about literature, try to include analysis of literary elements. For example:* While on the island, the boys initially act civilly as symbolized by the fire and the conch…)

**Topic Sentence – Body Paragraph #2:**

Recently in Long Island, the competition to score well on SATs led several students to make the poor decision to cheat and, when they were ultimately caught, they faced disgrace, failure, and negative consequences.