“The Most Dangerous Game”
Paragraphing Examples

Thesis:
“The Most Dangerous Game” portrays how civilized people will turn uncivilized if life depends on it.

Topic Sentence:
People in the story start out civilized, then become savage, especially if life depends on it.

Text Evidence #1:
“Thank you, I’m a hunter, not a murderer.”
1A. Rainsford is civilized because he refused to kill another person.
1B. Even though Rainsford will kill animals, he still has a sense of humanity because he does not want to take another man’s life.

Text Evidence #2:
“He had plunged along, spurred on by the sharp rowers of something very like panic.”
2A. Rainsford’s life is in danger and he is feeling the beginning of an animalistic terror.
2B. His concentration and reasoning is already being compromised by this terror as he runs wildly through the woods.

Text Evidence #3:
“The general said, ‘Splendid! One of us is to furnish a repast for the hounds. The other will sleep in this very excellent bed.”
3A. Rainsford’s civilization has been discarded because he now takes the option of taking Zaroff’s life rather than a more peaceful option.
3B. This is the end of a transformation from a civilized man to a savage one caused by the fear for his life.

Closing Sentence:
Rainsford proves that even the most civilized man can be turned savage in the fear of losing his life.
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**Thesis:**
“The Most Dangerous Game” demonstrates that terror can change a person from civilized to savage.

**Topic Sentence:**
Rainsford starts off as a civilized man before the hunt starts, then experiences fear during the hunt.

**Text Evidence #1:**
“Hunting? Great guns, General Zaroff, what you speak of is murder.”
1A. Rainsford believes that humans are not meant to be hunted.
1B. Rainsford is keeping civilized by believing what Zaroff is doing is wrong.

**Text Evidence #2:**
“Rainsford had dug himself in in France when a second’s delay meant death. That had been a placid pastime compared to his digging now.”
2A. Compared to the war in France, fighting against Zaroff is much more mentally exhausting.
2B. Rainsford is extremely panicked now that he realizes that Zaroff will kill him.

**Text Evidence #3:**
“Rainsford did not smile. ‘I am still a beast at bay’ he said in a low, hoarse voice, ‘Get ready, General Zaroff.’”
3A. Rainsford shows that he wants revenge after Zaroff tried to kill and toy with him.
3B. Rainsford knows that he is being savage.

**Closing Sentence:**
Rainsford changes from the beginning of the story by being civilized, but slowly becomes savage and kills Zaroff in the end.
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Thesis:
“The Most Dangerous Game” demonstrates how power and money can change people and create corruption in society.

Topic Sentence:
Zaroff’s money and power leads him to believe that he can do anything.

Text Evidence #1:
“I am strong. I hunt the scum of the earth.”
1A: Because Zaroff is powerful, he thinks he can do whatever he wants.
1B: One thing he wishes to do is kill human beings.

Text Evidence #2:
Rainsford: “But they are men” Zaroff: “Precisely”
2A: Zaroff’s self-important attitude is a result of his power and money, which leads him to homicide.
2B: With his 100% success rate in hunting animals, he believes he now has a right to hunt men.

Text Evidence #3:
“His eyes made out the shadowy outlines of a palatial chateau.”
3A: Since Zaroff has a mansion, he must have a lot of money.
3B: With his money, he believes he is important and that people below his level of authority do not deserve life.

Closing Sentence:
Zaroff’s riches and strength bless his life, but along with those gifts comes his insensitivity to human life.