**ACEC Writing Practice**

In Guy de Maupassant’s short story, “The Necklace,” the main character undergoes a radical personal change as a result of her obsession with having a better life. She spends the majority of her days wishing she could live a life vastly different from the one she’s got. In the end, her fixation on having a better life results in disastrous consequences for her and her husband.

“Keeping Up With the Joneses” is a non-fiction article that examines the historical tendency for people to put stock in the perception of social status. It offers details about the origins of the idiom, and presents the dangers associated with living above one’s means.

Directions: Write a well-constructed paragraph analyzing the main reason why both Madame Loisel from “The Necklace,” and the people mentioned in “Keeping Up With the Joneses” felt compelled to live outside of their means. What drives them to become obsessed with moving up the social ladder?

You may use details, quotes from the passages, or paraphrase things to support your essay.

Use the ACEC graphic organizer below to plan writing.

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| **ANSWER** the question correctly, using key words from the question, and in a complete sentence (Topic Sentence): |
| **CITE** using evidence from the passage to support the answer (short bits of quote or paraphrase): |
| **EXPAND, ELABORATE, EXPLAIN** how your citation supports your answer and reveals your understanding of the question (this should be the majority of your response): |
| **CONCLUSION SENTENCE** to wrap up the main idea of your constructed response (restate your topic sentence): |