**Prompt:** In a well-developed and well-organized essay, analyze how Hemingway develops his characterization of Santiago in The Old Man and the Sea and how this characterization develops the meaning of the text as a whole.

**Thesis examples:**

**Point-by-point method**

Hemingway uses Santiago in *The Old Man and the Sea* to examine the idea of endurance.

Comments/Issues:

1. Authors do NOT “use” characters; they depict, construct, etc.
2. No “what”
3. “Why” needs expansion – there is a phrase only, no full message

**Bolder statement**

Through his novella The *Old Man and the Sea,* Hemingway asserts the notion that endurance despite all opposition is the greatest victory.

Comments/Issues:

1. No “what” – add a phrase/clause regarding Santiago
2. “Why” is a much bolder statement that what is given in the point-by-point method

**Best statement**

 In *The Old Man and the Sea*, Hemingway depicts Santiago as a Christ-figure, asserting that endurance despite all opposition is the greatest victory.

Comments:

1. “what” is plot specific – I know what you are arguing specifically about the text! You are answering the question posed in the prompt!
2. “why” is a bold statement – thematically structured!