SENTENCE COMBINING #2

#### Blocking Characters in *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Combine the following elements into a coherent paragraph that explains the function of *blocking* characters in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

1. The climax of many comedies is the marriage of young lovers.
2. A good plot requires this.
3. The marriage is delayed.
4. This delay or suspense is usually achieved by characters.
5. They are called blocking characters.
6. They consciously oppose the marriage.
7. Their folly somehow stands in the marriage’s way.
8. Parents are most frequently blocking characters.
9. Parents represent practical, puritanical, and antiromantic forces in society.
10. The marriage is often blocked.
11. It is blocked by some folly or fault.
12. The fault or folly is in one or both of the lovers.
13. This happens in
14. This is the plays’ primary plot.
15. Jack’s plan to marry Gwendolen is initially blocked by the girl’s mother.
16. The mother is Lady Bracknell.
17. Lady Bracknell is concerned with Jack’s family background.
18. She is more concerned with this than with her daughter’s desires.
19. Gwendolen herself also threatens to be a block.
20. Gwendolen is in love with Jack and willing to marry him.
21. She can only love someone named Earnest.
22. This is what she says.
23. Jack uses the name Earnest when he is with her in London.
24. The audience believes this.
25. The hero’s name is Jack.
26. Gwendolen’s infatuation with the name of Ernest seems likely to become an obstacle.
27. This happens at the end of Act 1.
28. The audience is led to expect this.
29. Jack will discover a respectable set of parents.
30. Jack will get a new name.
31. This will satisfy the aristocratic conditions of Lady Bracknell.
32. This will satisfy the romantic expectations of Gwendolen.