**EDGAR ALLEN POE**

1. **Introduction**
   1. **Attention Getter**
   2. **Thesis Statement:** Due to the tragedies experienced throughout his life, from childhood, throughout adolescence, and into the careers and family life of his adulthood, depression and melancholy is the prevalent theme in all of Edgar Allan Poe’s writings.
2. **Point 1:** Early Childhood
   1. Birth
   2. Siblings
   3. Abandonment and death of parents
   4. Foster family
   5. Clincher: tie in tragedy
3. **Point 2:** Adolescence
   1. Education
   2. Death of foster mother
   3. Relationship with foster father
   4. College
   5. Clincher: tie in tragedy
4. **Point 3:** Careers
   1. Debt
   2. Army
   3. Editor
   4. Writer
   5. Speaker
   6. Debt
   7. Clincher: tie in tragedy
5. **Point 4:** Family Life
   1. Loves
   2. Marriage
   3. Wife’s Death
   4. Lostness
   5. Clincher: tie in tragedy
6. **Conclusion**
   1. **Restate Thesis:** The tragedy woven throughout Edgar Allan Poe’s life led him to become a world-renowned writer of tragic and depressing literature. His early years began in heartbreak with the death of his mother and the abandonment of his father. Through his growing years, the death of his adoptive mother and the mother of a childhood friend plagued him with morbid thoughts. His multitude of failures through his adult years culminating in the death of his wife sent him spiraling into the pit of despair.
   2. **Final Thought**