The Seven Commandments Writing Assignment

Prompt:
In chapter II, The Seven Commandments for the animals are spelled out in no uncertain terms. Every society has certain rules that the members of that society must follow. There are many rules in our society that are written; law libraries are full of them. There are also some unwritten rules that guide our daily lives (You shake hands when you meet someone new; you say “Excuse me,” etc). Your assignment is to create a list of The Seven Commandments for our society. Choose the seven most basic and important rules (written or unwritten) that guide our lives. Defend your choices.

Pre-Writing:
Stop and think for a few minutes about what guidelines most people in our society follow. Jot down all of your ideas. Then, go back and weed out those ideas that are duplicated or are not as important as some of the others on your list. Now, look at your list. If you were to give this list to someone who has just arrived in this country, would these “commandments” serve him/her well? If not, go back and make revisions to your list until you are satisfied that you have the seven most basic rules of our society.

Drafting:
• Your paper should have an introductory paragraph in which you lead up to and state your seven commandments.
• The body of your paper should have seven paragraphs: one for each commandment you have set forth. Your topic sentence for these paragraphs should set forth your commandments and the body of your paragraphs should include your justifications for choosing the commandments.
• Write a concluding paragraph in which you summarize your points and leave your reader with your most important thought.