Essay I Final Draft Issues, Or, I Know What I’m Doing This Summer

Technical Matters
Ellipses at beginning of quote: unnecessary
The verb “to deal”: vague. “Sacks deals with his need for stability.”
Use a long “em” dash when setting off a phrase: -- or — (not a hyphen, or “en” dash: “-”)

Titles
1. Sacksian Science: Religion or Pastime
2. Victims of Love
3. Mothers from Addams's "the Devil Baby at Hull House": Martyrs for a Lost Cause
4. Inner Struggles in a Big World: Is Science the Key?
5. Maternal love: Harmless or problematic?
6. Delusions as a Means of Survival: The Abused Mothers Who Visited Hull House
7. Guidance but No Direction: A Failed Attempt to Overcome Distraction
8. Chemistry: Oliver Sacks’s Adopted Family
9. Sacks: The Unreasonable Logician

Analytical Problem
Was Sacks contradictory in expressing that science was like a religion to him, while he admits that he doesn't believe in God, who is the central aspect of religion?

As a result, several perspectives of how Sacks views science can be derived. On one hand, from reading “Brilliant Light,” the audience tends to believe that Sacks is contradictory—he rejects religion, but his description of science is almost religious. On the other hand, it seems that Sacks did not see science as religious at all.

Thesis: SCR? The three Ts?
Yet this acceptance toward life does not improve any aspect of their situation. It just adds a filter through which the unfair lives of these women are viewed as beautiful rather than just shameful. These women may obtain the force to persevere in their dreadful situation by telling their own tragedies, but the auditors do not help the teller by listening silently to her when her views of her son are faulty. Instead they worsen the situation by keeping quiet and showing no sings that something is wrong with her portrayal of the son. No change will develop in the long run if these women keep on depicting themselves as fated martyrs and do nothing to try to change their role as mothers.

It is important that we know clearly what Dillard means by wealth, because while Dillard’s motive in "Total Eclipse” is to promote and set up a solid substratum for the betterment of our economy and society, and for the development of our lives and us, pursuing the kind of wealthy life promoted by Dillard would be just a time-consuming struggle for nothing if its wealth has no personal value for the readers.

Personally, I do not believe women should accept their lives as they come to them. They should fight for what they believe in and not become conformists. Women should not conform with giving everything they have to their children, they should do the best the can to get a hold of the life they have before having children.

Sentence Revision: Style, Clarity, Grace
1. Science, as Sacks discovers, is a highly unpredictable art in which mistakes are often masterpieces waiting to be discovered.

2. “Memory,” a term Addams capitalizes, is disdained as a regretful emotion that yields sorrow in women.

3. The process of experimentation requires extensive amounts of logic and reasoning capabilities.

4. In her essay, “The Devil Baby at Hull House,” Jane Addams explains how the rumor of the devil baby attracts women from around the country to see a deformed baby who resembles the devil "with his cloven hooves, his pointed ears and diminutive tail" (Addams 75).

5. Twice it is noted that Sabbath and lighting of candles on Friday was a special event.

6. Within the text, Sacks is constantly telling of his need for science.

7. With his "Uncle Tungsten" he has this love to learn more about the metals, how to extract them, their density, and even their word roots.

8. His sudden change in behavior is not normal because it is uncommon for a desire in a person’s life which has been so powerful to vanish at once, and it is also uncommon for a person not to find substitute for that desire.

**Paragraph Revision: look at logic of paragraph, use of evidence, close reading**

Another underlying theme repeated in his essay "Brilliant Light" is his spiritual inadequacy, which is yet another source of emptiness. Twice it is noted that Sabbath and lighting of candles on Friday was a special event. Once again, Sacks uses he novel principle of replacing religion with science. "I loved light, especially the lighting of the Sabbath candles on Friday nights, when my mother would murmur a prayer as she lit them" (58). His interest in the light aspect of the ritual shows his inner need for spiritual knowledge being suppressed by man's science. In Sacks's life, because he chooses not to explore more of the world of religion, he is forces to live a life of emptiness. Nevertheless he tried to lessen the vacant feeling with science and all sorts of experiments.

It is true that wen Sacks first learns about the Periodic Table he is utterly in awe of its “lawful, orderly, harmonious” characteristics, but what really makes him to decide to become a chemist is not the table, but stories of other chemists like Mendeleev and Curie, as he describes:

It was through reading these accounts that I first realized one could have theories in real life. There seems to me an integrity, an essential goodness, about a life dedicated to science. I had never given much though to what I might be when I was “grown up--growing up was hardly imaginable--but now I know: I wanted to be a chemist. (67)

What really draws him into chemistry is not gaining new knowledge of chemistry of doing chemical experiments, but it is “integrity” and “essential goodness” of chemists whose life was “dedicated to science.” As Sacks admires and wants to be like these chemists, Sacks wants to join this group of people because he knows that they will not abandon him like his parents do during the war. A similar wish to join his groip of chemists is also seen in other parts of the memoir. While explaining why he wants to gain cobaltite ad niccolite through experiments instead of just buying them from a factory catalogue, he writes, “This way, I would enter chemistry, start to discover it for myself, in much the same way its first practitioners did--I would live the history of chemistry in myself” (66). He sees doing chemical experiments not as a way to prove or find chemical theories, but as a way to join the group of chemists, and, ultimately, a way to become a real chemist himself. As seen in the previous accounts, his love and passion for chemistry always evolves around human emotional connections. Without emotion connections between chemistry and Uncle Dave, or between chemistry and chemists, chemistry does not really have any significance to Sacks.
Conclusion: what should a good, thought-provoking conclusion do?
Only by looking at situation objectively can new change occur. If these women are held in their own illusory worlds where they are fated martyrs, they will never be able to overcome this reality where sons abandon them or abuse them in such ways. Addams implies that only those in the same circumstances can understand the emotions and hardships that come with the role of a mother without the support of a husband. In many ways, she has lost hope in the sons who may change through education and understanding. These women should not delude themselves from the rest of the world as tragic figures, but instead actively come to realize that sons can overcome poverty and abusive fathers to become competent, independent men.