Earthquakes change Earth’s Surface in several ways. They can destroy entire cities and towns. They can also create rift valleys. A rift valley is a lowland between several highlands or mountain ranges created by the action of a geologic rift or fault. Earthquakes can be very dangerous.

Thesis Statement (3 points)- They can cause large cracks in the ground, destroy buildings and homes, and sometimes may even cause volcanoes to erupt.

A (answer-3 points )- Earthquakes can cause large cracks in the ground.

C (cite evidence)- In 1990, an earthquake hit the island of Luzon in the Philippines causing roads to crack. The illustration’s caption in the article stated, “Street split in half after the earthquake struck.”

E (explain evidence)- Due to the severe shaking of the ground, pressure was released causing the streets to separate.

A ( use second point)- Another way earthquakes can change Earth’s surface is by destroying buildings and homes.

C (cite evidence)- The Luzon article showed an illustration of a building before and after the earthquake.

E (explain evidence)- When the tectonic plates collide, they cause seismic waves which eventually reach the surface of the earth. The surface waves cause severe shaking of the ground which results into buildings and homes collapsing.

A (use third point)- Volcanoes erupting can also be caused by earthquakes which ultimately change the Earth’s surface.
C (cite evidence)- The article states, "Five days later, the volcano erupted...The summit of the volcano was blown off, replaced by a new hole 1.6 miles wide."

E (explain evidence)- After the initial large earthquake, there were several other series of earthquakes which may have caused the nearby volcano, Mt. Pinatubo, to begin to “rumble.” This eventually led to the volcano’s eruption.

Conclusion- The effects of earthquakes such as causing large cracks in the ground, destroying buildings and homes, and sometimes even causing volcanoes to erupt considerably changes the surface of the Earth.