Grade 10

Essay Writing Notes

**Essay Vocabulary**

1. paragraph: a group of sentences that all focus on one main idea.

2. introduction (introductory paragraph): the first paragraph of the essay which attracts the reader’s attention, introduces the main topic, and contains the thesis statement.

3. body (body paragraphs): the paragraphs in the middle of the essay which provide examples to support the thesis statement.

4. conclusion (concluding paragraph): the last paragraph of the essay which re-states the thesis, summarizes the essay’s main points, and concludes the discussion.

5. thesis statement: the last sentence(s) of the introductory paragraph, and the first sentence of the concluding paragraph; this is your opinion stated as a fact; it should be worth arguing and be defensible.

6. premise: a main reason why the writer has made the claim.

7. proof: a specific example that supports the premise.

8. transitions: words or phrases used throughout the essay to introduce new ideas or place emphasis on ideas.

9. echo transition: repeating a word(s) from earlier in the essay and then introducing a new premise or proof.

10. “hook”: a technique used in the introduction to “hook” the reader’s attention. Maybe an interesting quote, a startling statistic, an important question, a brief anecdote, etc.

11. repetition: repeating key words throughout the essay or paragraphs to remind the reader of the major points.

Instructions: Read “John Lennon: A Musician for All Time”

Then, identify the following elements right on the essay:

* Thesis statement
* Premises
* Proofs
* Transition words and phrases, including echo transition
* Repetition

What kind of introductory technique has the writer used?

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What kind of concluding technique has the writer used?

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