

TEXT BASED WRITING

8TH GRADE BLITZ

Writing Test:

- April 2, 2019
- Total Time = 120 minutes or 2 hours
- **Use Your Time Wisely**
- **Remember to leave enough time to type!!**



IMPORTANT

- DO YOUR BEST to score a 7, 8, 9, or 10 on the writing test...
- BECAUSE this score is combined with your reading score and can move you up a level!
- REMEMBER TO GO BACK AND READ YOUR ESSAY TO MAKE SURE THAT IT MAKES SENSE!!!!

Argumentative Prompt

- Read all four sources on the debate about the penny in the United States. This particular debate is not about big economic issues. Surprisingly, it is about the economic pros and cons of producing and using pennies.
- Write an argumentative essay in which you make a claim as to whether or not the production and use of the penny should be eliminated in the United States. Use the information from the texts in the passage set to develop your essay.

Informative/Explanatory Prompt

- Read all three sources about research and medical advice on the impact of sleep on our health. How many hours of sleep is enough? What is too much sleep? What is too little sleep? How do naps fit into sleep cycles?
- Write an explanatory essay about the importance of sleep and napping. **Your essay must be based on how the information in the chart in source #1 supports information provided in the two other sources.** Cite evidence and identify the source of each piece of information by title or source number.

Read Sources

- While you are reading the sources you should have your hand on the mouse and highlight important/interesting details as you are reading.
- Gather evidence: T-chart or 3 column chart

Outline for Argumentative Essay

- I. Introduction paragraph (4 to 5 sent.)
- II. Body paragraph (claim) (5 to 6 sent.)
- III. Body paragraph (claim) (5 to 6 sent.)
- IV. Body paragraph(counter claim) (5 to 6 sent.)
- V. Conclusion paragraph (4 to 5 sent.)

*III. Is optional (4 paragraph essay)

Introduction paragraph

- Begin by writing an interesting, but broad, general statement. Choose one part of the question that can be paraphrased. Rewrite it in your own words.
- After that, state what the essay is going to be about.
- Finally, tell exactly what the essay will be about in the thesis statement. If the essay topic is a question, answer it. If the essay topic requires you to form an argument, state your claim. The thesis statement is like a promise to the reader about what the essay will be about.

The “HOOK”, opening sentence is broad.

I am about... The focus narrows. Introduce the text.

Get to the point. The

THESIS statement is v

specific, and the m

important part

producti

Introduction Frame

- Hook
- List what you are going to talk about
- Elaborate
- Claim/ Thesis statement

- Hanna likes eating cheese

Example:

Relocating to a strange country can be tough to handle. Billy, from “The return of the Seagull,” by Austin Shane, goes through this experience. Although at first it was very difficult for him, the experience proves to Billy that he is stronger than he thought.

Body Paragraph Frame

- Topic Sentence The
- “Quote” Queen
- Elaborate Eats
- (Paraphrase) Pie
- Elaborate Every
- Conclusion sentence Christmas

comes to the realization he is strong.

In your response be sure to do the following:

- Explain why the move was difficult for Billy.
- Describe how Billy learns he is strong.
- Use detail from the passage in your response.

Restate: it is clear this paragraph is about the 1st bullet.
Answer

The move was hard, because Billy was upset that his father's job transfer to Japan, meant that the family had to leave Washington, DC, to move halfway across the world.

Cite detail:
 This one is a quote.

Before the move, Billy wondered how he will ever manage to make friends, because he "...can't even speak the same language as any of the kids in school."

Explain:
 This shows how the detail supports the topic sentence.

This is difficult for Billy, because not being able to communicate with other kids would leave him feeling lonely and frustrated.

Cite detail:
 This is specific.

The move also resulted in Billy having to quit playing goalie for the Junior Capitals, the youth hockey team he loved.

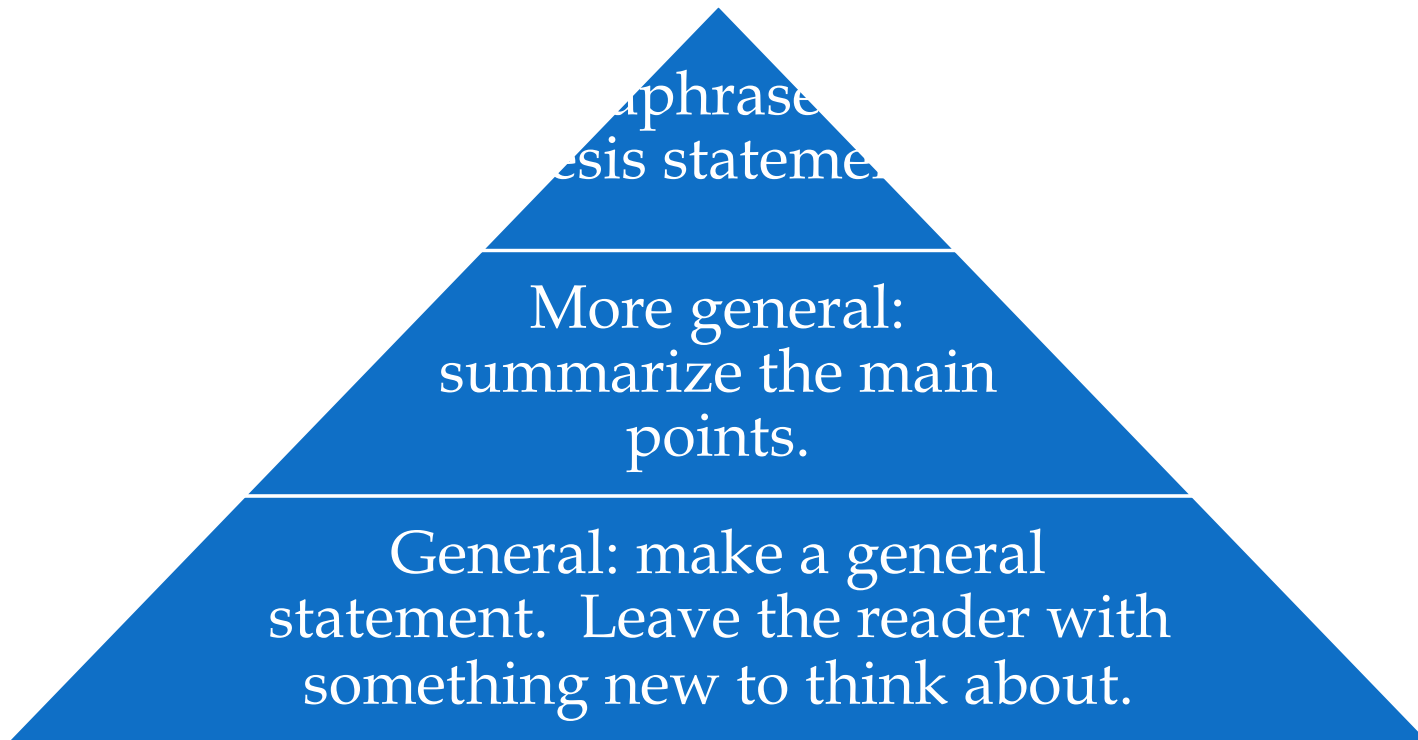
Explain:
 This shows how the detail supports the topic sentence.

Since his new city doesn't have a youth hockey team, it made Billy angry to know he can't play hockey anymore

Sum it up: This concludes the paragraph.

The move was hard for Billy, especially since he couldn't speak Japanese or play ice hockey.

Conclusion Paragraph



Conclusion Frame

- Restate your claim / thesis
 - Elaborate on your claim
 - Question / quote
 - Call to action / solution
-
- Richard eats quiche constantly

Relocating to a strange country can be tough to handle. Billy, from "The Return of the Seagull," by Austin Shane, goes through this experience. Although at first it was very difficult for him, the experience proves to Billy that he is stronger than he thought.



The conclusion is similar but in reverse.



- Specific: Thesis** → Moving to Japan was hard, but Billy learns that he is strong and can face problems without falling apart. Although
- More General: Summary** → moving was difficult for many reasons, Billy benefits from the experience, because he learns about himself during the process.
- General:** Facing challenges can lead to important

Evidence vs. Elaboration

Define Evidence:

Relevant pieces of text information that support the topic sentence of the body paragraph

Define Elaboration:

Explanation of the evidence and how it supports the topic sentence of the body paragraph

Sentence Stems

Evidence

In the text, it states...

According to the text, ...

In the article _____, it explains...

The author, _____, wrote...

The graphic shows...

One example from the passage is...

The author claims...

Additionally, ...

Elaboration

This shows...

To clarify, ...

Clearly, ...

This proves...

Therefore, ...

Due to overwhelming evidence, ...

This illustrates...

In other words, ...

This demonstrates...

This suggests that...

Cloze Activity

School lunches have changed recently to offer children healthier choices. The text states, _____

In other words, _____

A few examples _____

Clearly, _____

_____. Additionally, _____

These changes illustrate _____

Paraphrasing

- Some examples of paraphrasing with synonyms:

My car needs gasoline.

- a. My automobile needs fuel. **(source 1)**
- b. My wheels need gas.

The U.S. government has an enormous debt.

- a. The federal government has an extremely large debt. **(source 2)**
- b. The national government has a huge debt.

Some examples of paraphrasing with definitions:

A college student usually has homework to do.

- a. A person going to college typically has to study at home. **(source 3)**
- b. People taking college courses usually have assignments to do

“Quotes”

- According to Jonathan Clarke, "Professional diplomats often say that trying to think diplomatically about foreign policy is a waste of time."
- Will Durant wrote, "Their economy remained local in structure even while their fleets and products reached out to distant ports."
- Christine Shaw states that "a political changes brought about in Italy by the intervention of the French were fatal."

Transitions

To add information

again
besides
moreover
another
for insurance
together with

and
like wise
as well
furthermore
additionally

along with
also
for example
equally important
further

Conclude or Summarize:

in short
finally
in summary
For the reasons above

consequently
due to
all in all
as a result

accordingly
to sum up
without a doubt
therefore

Contrast two things or show a difference:

but
otherwise
even though
conversely
even so

yet
however
counter to
on the other
hand
as opposed
to

in the meantime
on the contrary
nevertheless
still

Emphasize a point:

again
indeed
to repeat

truly
in fact
to emphasize

for this reason
with this in mind

Show similarities:

in the same manner
in the same way

likewise
like

as

Sample Essay

- Thomas Edison once said that inventing was “1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration.” Inventing is hard work and takes a lot of preparation. Some people, from Sir Isaac Newton and Percy Spencer, seemed lucky to be inspired by mistakes: apples dropped on their heads or chocolate melted in their pockets. Mistakes seem to have led to discoveries. However, to say that mistakes like these are key in making discoveries would not be true. Real discoveries come from careful experiments and study, and those take time and work.
- The text “In Praise of Careful Science” says “Most of the time, scientists work for decades and make very few mistakes.” While doing an experiment, in order to make it accurate, multiple trials should be performed to gather the correct data. Each trial isn’t a mistake. It’s simply a further study of the experiment. Many scientists have to research for months or even years on end to conduct accurate experiments. Discoveries aren’t always made in a day. John Denker, a famous scientist, once compared slow discovery to popular music. He said, “I am reminded of the rock star who said it took him 15 years to become an overnight sensation.” This rock star worked hard for a long time before he became famous. That’s the same as with discoveries in science. A lot of work makes the discovery important, not the mistake that may have led to it.
- Not all cases are as clear, though. In the 1940s, Percy Spencer, an electrical engineer in his twenties, was about to discover the beginnings one of today’s most useful kitchen appliances – the microwave. His company’s newest project was the Magnetron, a machine that uses electric and magnetic currents. One day, while testing the Magnetron, Spencer had a chocolate bar in his pocket. He stood too close to the Magnetron, and the chocolate melted. (source 1) He was the first person to put together the idea of using electric and magnetic currents to cook food. However, it took twenty more years before his company made a functional microwave oven. While Percy’s mistake of having a chocolate bar in his pocket eventually led to the invention of the microwave, 20 years researching and perfecting the invention are truly to thank.
- At the end of the day, to say “Without mistakes, no discoveries can be made” does not do humankind justice. Every invention or discovery ever made comes with years of work. While the ideas behind some inventions sometimes come from a mistake, the mistake is only a measly part of the process. In the words of Carl Sagan, a space scientist, “Science is a self-correcting process,” and the mistake is not as important as the corrections.

Remember.....

- 4 or 5 paragraph essay
- 2 to 3 quotes
- **DO NOT USE TEXT LANGUAGE OR SLANG**
- Indent for every paragraph (5 spaces)
- Claim / Counter Claim – (Argumentative)
- Thesis statement – (Informative)
- Remember to capitalize proper nouns.
- Remember to punctuate your sentences.
- Use words from the **prompt** and **sources**.
- Read over your essay, use **higher level vocabulary**.

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