

My Name: _____ I am reading _____ 's Essay

What is the topic? _____

STEP 1: Read their introduction. What type of introduction is there? Check the box that best describes the introduction. It's okay to check more than one box, if you think 2 or more of the items listed below fit the introduction.

Does the writer...

- ☐ tell an anecdote (a story or personal example)?
- ☐ provide historical overview of the topic?
- ☐ start with a general statement and then narrow down to more specific statements?
- ☐ use a statistic (numbers) about the topic?
- ☐ ask a question?
- ☐ use a quotation?
- ☐ other: _____

Is there anything that you would change about the introduction? Please mark your changes on the essay.

STEP 2: Find their thesis statement. Write it here. . It should be in the form of:

"IDEA TOPIC is/can be defined as (1) , (2) , and (3) ."

If you cannot find the thesis statement, write what you think the topic and controlling idea are:

From the thesis, what do you expect this essay to be about? Can you guess what the main points will be?

Main point #1 _____

Main point #2 _____

Main point #3 _____

STEP 3: Read the body of the essay. Does each paragraph answer the question: "How does the information in this paragraph relate to the thesis statement?" Specify on the essay which paragraphs are weak or strong. Explain if there are any paragraphs that are confusing and unrelated to the thesis.

Do the main points of each body paragraph match the main points you listed above? If not, list what the main point of each body paragraph actually is.

Body paragraph #1

- ☐ Body paragraph #1 has the SAME main point as listed above
- ☐ Body paragraph #1 has a DIFFERENT main point

Body paragraph #1 uses this strategy to define the IDEA (circle which one your classmate uses):

Function

Example

Negation

Other

- ☐ Body paragraph #1 is STRONG

Body paragraph #2

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- ☐ Body paragraph #2 has the SAME main point as listed above
- ☐ Body paragraph #2 has a DIFFERENT main point

Body paragraph #2 uses this strategy to define the IDEA (circle which one your classmate uses):

Function	Example
Negation	Other

- ☐ Body paragraph #2 is STRONG

Body paragraph #3

- ☐ Body paragraph #3 has the SAME main point as listed above
- ☐ Body paragraph #3 has a DIFFERENT main point

Body paragraph #3 uses this strategy to define the IDEA (circle which one your classmate uses):

Function	Example
Negation	Other

- ☐ Body paragraph #1 is STRONG

STEP 4: Read the conclusion of the essay. What type of conclusion is there? Check the box that best describes their conclusion. It's okay to check more than one box, if you think 2 or more of the items listed below fit the conclusion..

Does the conclusion...

- ☐ summarize the main points of the essay?
- ☐ restate the thesis (using different words)?
- ☐ make a final comment about the essay's main idea?
- ☐ invite the reader to take action in some way?
- ☐ offer a solution?

Is there anything that you would change about the conclusion? Please mark your changes on the essay.

STEP 5: Look back over the whole essay. Read very carefully for any problems with mechanics (spelling, punctuation, extra or missing spaces, capitalization, etc.) and grammar (subject-verb agreement, noun-pronoun agreement, run-on or incomplete sentences, etc.) errors. *Remember, paying close attention to the errors that others make will help you to be more aware of the errors that you might make in your own paper!*

If you had to re-write this essay, how would you improve the organization and power of the definition? Make 3 specific suggestions for your partner

1. _____

2.

3.

Discuss your comments with your partner!