

Journal Essay Assignment (Eng 151A)

Review the essay development guidelines in Chapter 26 (pp 498-515) in *The Writer's Workplace*. Then, choose one of the Journal responses you have already submitted this semester – you will reshape this Journal response and submit that revised version as this Journal Essay assignment. The goal of this assignment is to give you practice focusing just on essay *form* (e.g. clear and focused thesis statements and specific topic sentences; patterns for introductions, body paragraphs and conclusions; use of transitions between paragraphs and between ideas; coherence, clarity, and unity of argument; thoroughness of example, explanation, illustration and definition; etc.) without having to worry about generating brand new subject content at the same time.

The essay must be 5 paragraphs and two pages in length. It must have a clear thesis statement somewhere in the introductory paragraph. Each internal body paragraph must have a topic sentence that clearly announces what that paragraph will be about, and that topic sentence must clearly support and extend the thesis statement in some fashion. Discussion and analysis and description work must be specific and concretely supported and detailed. The introductory paragraph must clearly follow one of the models outlined in Chapter 26. The conclusion paragraph must clearly follow one of the models outlined in Chapter 26. **Your work will be graded specifically on whether it effectively achieves these elements and requirements of the college essay.**

Be sure to take enough time with this assignment in order to ensure that it meets the guidelines above and below before you submit it for evaluation.

Please follow these guidelines as you proofread your work:

- Stay in **one verb tense consistently** throughout the essay. Do not use **contractions** or **slang speech**. Do not use **2nd person** voice (you, your). Make sure all of your **pronoun references** are correct. Make sure all of your **subjects match their verbs** in number.
- **Proofread repeatedly** for sentence construction and clarity, and use lots of colorful, illustrative, specific example to **show** us and **convince** us of your thesis idea.
- Write a minimum of **5 sentences** for your intro paragraph, **10 sentences** for your middle “body paragraphs,” and a minimum of **5 sentences** for your conclusion paragraph
- Use at least **3 transition words or phrases** from the lists on pp 512-513 in Chapter 26

After you finish typing the final version of your essay, do the following **4 things before you submit it**:

1. In the left or right hand margin of your introduction, **label the type of introductory paragraph** you have written (choose **one** of the model types outlined on pp 508-510 in Chap 26 to model)
2. Divide your body discussion into 3 distinct paragraphs that each support your thesis differently. Make sure each of those paragraphs begins with a topic sentence that does two things: introduces the paragraph focus, and links us back to your thesis argument. **Highlight each topic sentence that introduces and label the topic focus in each.**
3. **Circle the 3 transitions** that you use (from the list on pp 512-513 in Chap 26)
4. In the left- or right-hand margin of your essay, **label the type of concluding paragraph** that you have written (choose **one** of the model types outlined on pp 514-515 in Chap 26)