

WORKSHOP OUTLINE: PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT

I. Basic Description: In 2-3 sentences, describe the workshop.

Students will learn concrete techniques for developing their quotation analysis in ways that support a strong argument rather than make irrelevant assertions or summaries.

II. Workshop Entry Expectations

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 4; Writing 4; Listening/Speaking 4; Math 1

III. Workshop Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of this workshop, the student will be able to:

- 1) Write an essay using a coherent essay structure that supports the thesis without necessarily conforming to a five paragraph format;
- 2) Support the thesis in analyses in each body paragraph without resorting to assertions or summary;
- 3) Use techniques of quotation analysis, such as close reading;
- 4) Omit unnecessary or repetitive ideas or summaries from a body paragraph.

IV. Workshop Content

The following concepts, ideas, or topics must be covered:

- 1) Difference between assertion and argument;
- 2) Development of premises to arrive at sound conclusions;
- 3) Methods of relating disparate texts in a clear argument;
- 4) Identification strategies for weak arguments or missing premises in an argument.

V. Methods of Presentation

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. Directed class discussions, small-group discussions, peer group writing workshops, individual conferences, small-group conferences, and student presentations;
2. Films, audio-visuals, slides, and hand-out materials may be used to supplement discussion and readings;
3. Debate, role-playing activities, group projects, or other active learning;
4. Guest speakers from related disciplines may be invited to present special topical material;
5. Student ownership and presentation of assigned workshop material.

VI. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the workshop:

- 1) Pre- and Post-tests.

VII. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this workshop, the student will be able to demonstrate his/her ability to:

- 1) Write well-developed paragraphs that avoid assertion and summary.
- 2) Explain effective strategies for paragraph development.