**INFORMAL ESSAY ASSIGNMENT**

Your task is to write an informal essay on a topic of your choice (see attached handout for ideas!). The essay may be serious or humorous, instructional or satirical, but it should employ a variety of rhetorical devices (5 minimum). Be certain your essay is unified in theme and mood because your primary aim is to make the audience understand your opinions on the subject. Keep in mind, your audience is “an educated reader”.

Once you have chosen a topic, consider which method of development and which type of essay is most appropriate.

Length: 5 paragraph essay, 1 ½ -2 pages, double-spaced, MLA format (rough work must be included!!!)

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| Due Dates:  **Rough Notes *and* Rough Copy**  -\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Peer Edit Sheet *and* Final Copy**  -\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Check List for Final Hand-In:  \_\_\_ Rough Notes  \_\_\_ Rough Copy  \_\_\_ Peer Edit Sheet  \_\_\_ Final Copy |

Evaluation:

/10 **Content**- You engage your reader and the essay is easy to read

because it is unified in theme and tone.

/10 **Style** – Your essay meets the requirements of a five paragraph essay. It creates coherence through use of transitional words and phrases between ideas and paragraphs. A clear method of organization is evident.

/10 **Rhetorical Devices** – Your essay demonstrates a strong understanding of rhetorical devices which help to create emphasis.

/5 **Spelling and Grammar** – Your essay is free of mechanical

errors.

**TOTAL: 35 marks**

**Editing Sheet – Informal Essays**

Editor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of the essay: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Essay’s Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following checklist for the final draft:

1. \_\_\_\_ MLA Format is present and proper
2. \_\_\_\_ There are five paragraphs between 5-7sentences in length, each of which is properly indented.
3. \_\_\_\_ The Opening paragraph includes an attention-getting introduction, persuasive thesis, and three main points.
4. \_\_\_\_ Unity is achieved through a strong thesis, clear argument, and appropriate tone that is visible throughout the essay.
5. \_\_\_\_ A minimum of give (5) rhetorical devices have been used in this essay to create greater emphasis.
6. \_\_\_\_ Diction is strong, thoughtful, and appropriate to the essay’s tone and topic.
7. \_\_\_\_ This essay is **NOT** predictable, formulaic, boring, or stale.
8. \_\_\_\_ Transitions are used between paragraphs and separate ideas within body paragraphs to create a sense of “flow” (i.e. coherence).
9. \_\_\_\_ Each Body paragraph is developed by: introducing a point in the topic sentence, examples to prove the point, and finally an explanation as to how these examples prove the point.
10. \_\_\_\_ Each Body paragraph ends with a “clinching” or concluding sentence.
11. \_\_\_\_ The Concluding paragraph restates the thesis and three points in a refreshing way leaving readers with one final thought.
12. \_\_\_\_ There are no spelling errors in this essay.
13. \_\_\_\_ There are no punctuation errors in this essay.

**Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Informal Essay Evaluation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content**   * shows a high degree of insight into topic * a memorable thesis with three strong points * unified by theme and tone * the conclusion has a strong impact on audience | /10 |
| **Style**   * meets requirements of a 5 paragraph essay * body paragraphs are developed with supporting details * transitions between ideas and paragraphs create a sense of coherence or “flow” in the essay * a clear method of organization is evident | /10 |
| **Emphasis**   * good sentence variety and vivid precise diction * A minimum of 5 rhetorical devices are used in the essay and add greater emphasis to the main argument | /10 |
| **Mechanics**   * spelling, punctuation and sentence structure are applied with a high degree of accuracy and effectiveness | /5 |
| **Total:** | /35 |
| **Comments:** |  |