**Narrative Writing Essay**

**That’s My Opinion**

**Journal # 4**

Spend at least five minutes writing about one of the quotes below. Do not worry about spelling or grammar.

**Freak is a pretty smart person. Not only is he “book smart,” but he also has learned a lot about life in a short period of time. He makes a couple of comments in particular which are worth thinking about. In chapter 9 when Max asks him if the operation isn’t dangerous, he says, “Life is dangerous.” Later, in chapter 14 he says, “No one stays like they are. Everybody is always changing.”**

**You will be using the quote as the main idea for your essay. You may either agree or disagree with Freak, but your essay needs to be based on one of the two quotes above.**

**Writing About Your Opinion**

Writing an essay about your opinion is similar to talking about your opinion. Look at the following outline. This is the **format** for writing an essay based on your opinion. If you think about it, it is also how you would discuss your opinion.

1. Opening: This is a paragraph which tells about your topic & very clearly states what your opinion is.

2. Body: For this essay, your body will be one paragraph which gives an argument to support your opinion. You will use details, facts, and examples to support your argument.

3. Closing: This paragraph will restate your opinion and then *call your reader to action*. This means that you will try to encourage your reader to take action about changing things.

By following these easy steps, you will be able to write about your opinion.

**PREWRITING: Brainstorming: Coming Up with Ideas**

What does the Quote mean to you? Is it true? What examples of the truth of the statement can you find in your life, your world? Or do you find that the statement is not necessarily true? Why would Freak say these things? Answer the following questions. Organize your thoughts, create an outline.

|  |
| --- |
| Which quote did you choose to write about? |
| List one detail about your topic that you believe is important for people to know. |
| List one fact that your reader may or may not have known. (This may require research.) |
| List one example of why this is a good thing. |
| What is your call to action? What do you want your reader to do after reading this essay? |

**DRAFTING**

**Opening: Paragraph One**

When you write any type of an essay, you want to get your reader’s attention right away. A good way to do that when you are writing an opinion essay is to use a question, a surprising fact, or to address the reader personally.

Look at these examples:

**A question**: Have you ever been told you cannot do something because it is too dangerous?

**A surprising fact**: Did you know that the National Safety Council reports that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year.

**Personal address**: Have you ever been in love? Didn’t you want to spend every minute with that person? We shouldn’t have to wait until we are 18 years old to date.

Once you’ve decided on how to start your essay, you need to follow that up with your opinion.

Look at this example:

*Did you know that the National Safety Council reports that cell phone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes each year. I feel that life is dangerous. I am surprised that more accidents do not occur. Although I agree that life is dangerous, I think we need to overcome our fears and live life to the fullest. People need to take chances. When George Lucas got in a car accident and his dreams were crushed he persevered and became one of the best directors*

**Your Turn**

Now you are going to write your opening paragraph.

1. Start your essay with a question, an interesting fact, or a personal address.

2. State your opinion.

3. Give a fact or detail supporting your opinion.

USE YOUR IDEAS FROM YOUR JOURNAL-BRAINSTORM WRITING.

USE A NEW LINED SHEET OF PAPER AND WRITE YOUR OPENING ROUGH DRAFT. SKIP SPACES BETWEEN LINES AND DO NOT WRITE ON THE BACK.

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**The Body: Paragraph Two**

In the second paragraph you will need to add details, facts, and examples. These will be used to persuade your reader. The details, facts, and examples show that you know what you are talking about. You may have to research these. If you can use a computer, you may go on the Internet to do your research. If you don’t have a computer, go to the library to do your research. Let’s take a look at a paragraph with details, facts, and examples.

*Life is dangerous and does not always go as planned. Instead of driving racecars, George Luca began filming them. Today, he’s glad for his decision to let his old life and his old dreams die, so that he could go a new direction. You see, without giving up his old life, he would have never found his career in the film industry, and no one would have ever seen Star Wars.*

**Your Turn**

In this paragraph you may want to use linking words or phrases such as *for this reason, because, therefore, so*, etc. These phrases let your reader see the link between the example and your opinion.

1. Restate your opinion followed by the word *because* and then a fact that supports your opinion.

2. List a detail that supports your opinion. Remember to use linking words/phrases here.

3. List an example that supports your opinion. Use linking words/phrases here also.

**Closing: Paragraph Three**

In this paragraph, you will restate your opinion and encourage your reader to make a change. When starting the last paragraph, you will want to use a word or phrase that shows you are starting to wrap things up. Here is a list of some good words to use: *clearly, therefore*, or *so*.

Here’s an example:

So clearly, when you think about life being dangerous, think of also the rewards you can have. Freak knew that having an operation was dangerous, but just living is dangerous. People can be cruel; accidents happen. The key is to endure it and become the best person you can be. In my life my dream is to….. The danger I may encounter is failure…..

**Your Turn**

1. Use a word to show you are concluding your essay, and then restate your opinion.

2. Remind the reader of your BEST fact, detail, or example.

3. Call the reader to action. This means encouraging him to do something. For example, “So endure life and be the best person you can be.”

**Finishing Up / PROMPT-Peer Review-**

What you have written is called a **rough draft***.* It is a great start. It may have mistakes in it. Some sentences may not sound right to you. Now is the time you can make it better.

This is your chance to correct mistakes. Go back and read each sentence. Are the words spelled correctly? Did you use capital letters and punctuation? Did you remember to use paragraphs and indent? If you need help in this area, more help can be found in the *Reading on the Move* lessons that can be found on the Internet at www.migrant.net.

Is your essay as good as you can make it? Did you give it a title? If you can, type it on a computer and print it out. If you do not have a computer, use your best handwriting and copy it over on a piece of paper or on the following lines. **PROOFREADING/FINAL DRAFT** **Use RUBRIC**