Jane Schaffer
Writing
Teaching the
Multi-Paragraph Essay:
Jane Schaffer Background

Jane Schaffer Curriculum materials for novels, composition and mythology can be found at:

http://www.curriculumguides.com

Jane Schaffer Publications offers tested and proven curriculum materials for composition and literature. The guides have been successful in grades 7 through 12, at all ability levels.
Essay – a piece of writing that gives thoughts (commentary) about a subject.

Types of writing include:

CLASSIFICATORY: To Inform
PERSUASIVE: To Persuade
DESCRIPTIVE: To Describe
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Terminology

Essays must be a minimum of 4 paragraphs including the following parts:

I: Intro 40+ words

II: 1st body paragraph (100 + words)

III: 2nd body paragraph (100 + words)

IV: Concluding paragraph 40+ words)
Overview:

Steps in the Writing Process:

1. Pre-Writing
2. Shaping the Essay
3. First Draft
4. Peer Response
5. Revision
6. Final Draft
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Terminology

Parts of the Essay:

1. Introductory Paragraph
2. Thesis
3. Body Paragraph
4. Topic Sentence
5. Concrete Detail
6. Commentary
7. Chunk
8. Concluding Sentence
9. Conclusion Paragraph
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Terminology

**Thesis** – a sentence with a subject and opinion. Often appears at the end of introductory paragraph.
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Pre-writing – the process of getting concrete Details on paper before organizing paragraphs.

- Bubble Cluster
- Spider Cluster
- Outline Cluster
- Columns
- Line Cluster
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Prewriting - Bubble Clusters

- Time with Siblings
- BBQ
- Daily Routine
  - Stay up Late
  - Movies
- SUMMER TIME
  - Pleasure Reading
- Family
  - Vacation
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Prewriting - SPIDER Clusters

- Time with Siblings
- BBQ
- Family
- Vacation
- SUMMER TIME
- Daily Routine
- Stay up Late and sleep in
- Pleasure Reading
- Movies

SUMMER TIME
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Prewriting - Outline

Getting A Computer

I. Picking One Out
   A. Comparison Shopping
   B. Talking to Sales persons

II. Setting it Up
   A. Tried to Read the Manual
   B. Friend came into Teach
TWO CHARACTERS

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**BEING FAMOUS**
1. **MY TWO BEST FRIENDS**

2. **CHERYL**
   - Known since first grade
   - Have four classes together

   **JOE**
   - Lives down the street.
   - Take martial arts class with
Ratio

the ration of
1 part concrete detail (CD) and
2 parts commentary (CM)

CD : CM

1 : 2
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**Introduction** – the first paragraph in an essay. It includes the thesis, most often at the end.
a middle paragraph in an essay used to develop a point and support the thesis.
Shaping the Essay done after the prewriting and before the first draft of an essay.

It’s an OUTLINE of a THESIS, TS, CD, CM ideas.
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**Topic Sentence** the first sentence in a body paragraph.
Concrete Details

Examples
Facts
Details
Specifics
Statistics
Illustrations
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Commentary

Opinions
Supporting sentences
Explanation
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Chunk

ONE Concrete Detail (CD) and

TWO Commentary (CM).
Sentence 1: (TS) The walls in this room are dull and boring.

Sentence 2: (CD) For example,

Sentence 3: (CM)

Sentence 4: (CM)
Sentence 1: (TS) I hate Christmas shopping.

Sentence 2: (CD) For example,

Sentence 3: (CM)

Sentence 4: (CM)
Sentence 1: (TS) O’Henry uses irony to provide humor and suspense in his short stories.

Sentence 2: (CD)

Sentence 3: (CM)

Sentence 4: (CM)
Concluding Sentence - the last sentence in a body paragraph.

ALL

COMMENTARY

Gives a finished feeling to the paragraph

DOES Not include KEYWORDS from the paragraph
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**Concluding Paragraph** – may sum up ideas, reflect on what was said in the essay, give more commentary, or a personal statement about the subject.

- **ALL COMMENTARY**
  - Gives A Finished Feeling To The Essay
  - Does Not Repeat Keywords From The Paper Or Intro.
BODY PARAGRAPH SAMPLE

TS = Topic Sentence

CD = Concrete Detail

CM = Commentary <-- Chunk

Cm = Commentary

CD = Concrete Detail

CM = Commentary <-- Chunk

Cm = Commentary

CS = Closing Sentence
many of the same factors which affect the writer also affect the audience

- age
- social class
- education
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PEER RESPONSE
Essay Scoring Guide

A – Brilliant/Excellent

✔ Format includes excellent concrete detail
✔ Format includes insightful commentary
✔ Find corrections
✔ Organization is clear and logical
✔ Very few, if any mechanical errors
✔ Excellent sentence variety
✔ Correct and skillful use of transitions
✔ Repeats little or not at all
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- Title
- Introduction
  - Thesis statement
- Body Paragraphs
  - TS
  - CD
  - CM
  - CM
  - CM
  - CS
- Conclusion