

English Exam Review: Lectures

Invention: Exploring the Landscapes of the Mind

-Pre-writing and thesis statements

- recognizing audience
 - generating essay proposals and/or outlines
 - brainstorming viable arguments
 - constructing and testing tentative thesis statements
- These topic will also be covered in your writing workshops

-Creating knowledge

- Writing is really about exploring and extending our thinking
- As a writer, try to communicate your thoughts clearly and express your ideas in ways that make them have the greatest impact on your readers
- There are a number of strategies that help you explore the “landscapes of your mind”

What are the strategies of innovation

- freewriting: allows you to uncover intense emotions and recall rich detail that may have been pushed back into the deepest realms of your experience
- looping: type of freewriting that focuses your attention on an established topic
- clustering: allows you to generate a number of ideas in a short period of time
- brainstorming: generate ideas in an image form
- questioning: who, what, when, where, why, how?

Development: Bridging the Gap

Methods of Development

- Description: used to convey the author’s dominant impression of a person, place, or thing
- Narration: used to tell an audience about an event that has taken place over time. Reveals significance of events. Usually arranged chronologically. Can involve personal feelings
- Process Analysis: when you want to explain how to do something, make something, or explore how a process and analyzing them so that your audience can understand them
- Definition: explaining a term or setting limits or boundaries on a topic in order to explain its meaning to your audience. It can involve listening its features, placing it in a class, tracing its etymology or semantic history to understand its current usage
- Example and Illustration: Providing specific details, evidence, or hypothetical examples in order to help your audience make sense of your ideas

- Comparison and Contrast: used to examine the similarities or differences between two or more objects, concepts, or experiences in order to convey your ideas
- An analogy: is a startling comparison designed to advance an idea
- Classification and Division: the organization of multiple items with similar features into one inclusive category, it helps your audience comprehend one piece of information at a time
- Cause and Effect: examines the reasons or consequences of a process, experience or issue. May show a single cause, examine multiple effects, or show a chain or cause/effect relationships in order to communicate complex and important relationships to your audience

Types of Appeal

- (*Logos*) Logical appeal: an appeal or logic or reason. An argument, a claim is supported with evidence to reach a conclusion: deduction
 - Deductive Reasoning: Begins with a general claim, supports that claim with specific evidence, and then reaches a conclusion
 - Inductive Reasoning: Starts out with specific evidence, and then draws a general claim from it
- (*Pathos*) Emotional Appeal: pathos makes your audiences respond at an emotional level
- (*Ethos*) Ethical Appeal: by portraying themselves as people of good sense, good will, and moral integrity: ethos, a writer may attempt to convince his audience

Types of Writing

- Occasion: the circumstances under which writers and readers communicate. Sometimes writers and readers communicate ideas in relation to a specific event, such as on an anniversary or in relation to the launch of a particular initiative
- Audience- This can be specialized, non-specialized, or multiple. Like the terms imply, a specialized audience has a specialized knowledge of the subject area and is familiar with its particular vocabulary. A non specialized audience is a general audience. A multiple audience would have people from multiple disciplines or with different levels of knowledge of the subject

Thesis Statements

- Thesis: conveys the main idea of a piece of writing
- Thesis Statement: Contains a single idea, clearly focussed and specifically stated, that grows out of your exploration of a subject. It should be thought of as a central idea phrased in the form of an assertion

Outlines

-Uses indentation and numbers to indicate various levels of subordination, providing a graphic scheme of the logic of your paper

Arrangement

Simple Essay Structure: Beginning, Middle, End & Introduction. Body, Conclusion

Rhetorical Strategies: Work with methods of development to make meaning. These approaches can be used together. For example, if you were using description to examine the dangers of nuclear power, you will have to decide what you describe first. The following examples of common rhetorical methods illustrate different possibilities for the arrangement of sections of your paper and the effect each creates

Paragraphs: When arranging the paragraphs in your essay, you are guided by your strategy for the paper. You must think about the message that you want to convey, the audience you want to reach, and the larger context within which you are working

Introduction: Intros should do more than just begin a paper, they should capture or hook the interest and imagination of the reader and tell them a little bit more about the topic or subject of your paper. You want to establish a rapport with your reader in this initial stage of your paper, usually establishing your expertise and credibility, and sometimes attacking opposing viewpoints

Body Paragraphs: Confirmation Body paragraphs should prove readers with a sense of increased understanding of your position and of confirmation of your assertions. Topic sentences are statements of central ideas that you develop within the paragraph that follows. They help readers make connections between your ideas and give them clear indications of your central points as you provide supporting details.

Spatial and Chronological A spatial arrangement is used when you describe a person, place, or thing. When you do so, usually you begin at the top or bottom, the foreground or background, or from left to right. Imagine that you are planning something with a video camera and describe in detail what the camera sees

A chronological arrangement moves the reader through time, perhaps using flashbacks and forwards to create interest

Climactic: The points appear in order of least to most important to the argument. The points are arranged for impact and there is a sense of build as they progress.

Inverted: This type of arrangement begins with the most important point and descends to the least important point.

Block arrangements: Proceed by comparing A to B, subject by subject, discussing A in full and then B in full

Alternating arrangements: Proceed by discussing each subject point by point: A and B in relation to point 1: A and B in relation to point 2: A and B in relation to point 3 etc...

Problem and Solution: This arrangement opens with a statement or detailed description of a problem and follows with suggestions for solving it

Question and answer: A probing question is introduced to begin the paper and then a detailed answer to the question is provided thereafter

General to Specific: The topic is approached on a general level first, and more specific details follow.

Specific to General: When you use this approach, the details appear before the more general comments.

Increasing Complexity: A variation on the climatic model, this pattern arranges points from the simplest to the most complex. Since you begin by establishing those points which are easiest to prove, this arrangement allows you to advance your argument relatively quickly and thereby establish a strong momentum early in the essay

Refutation and concession: This method can be used to confirm your views by refusing opposing views or conceding certain points in order to appear reasonable, while building to a stronger argument against the opposing validity of the view you are against in order to appear credible

Conclusions: A conclusion should do more than reiterate your preceding points. It should be a continuation or extension of what you have presented in your body paragraphs. Other ways of concluding may involve circling back to your original question or point, alluding to your title, or varying the rhythm or slowing the pace of your words and sentences to create the sensation of coming to an end

Subject Verb Agreement

Style: is a skill you can control that is created by the words you use and the way you arrange them

-**Diction:** refers to your word choices, there are levels of diction that we use based on our context. Including: slang, colloquial, informal, and formal

-**Standard Idiom:** An idiom is an expression whose meaning can't be determined by simply knowing the definition of each words within the idiom.

Figures of Speech

-**Figurative language:** means using words that carry more than their literal meaning

-**Figures of speech:** are particular types of figurative language, and include similes, personification, and metaphors

-**Alliteration and Assonance:** sound devices by which a writer can communicate the emotions associated with a concept simply repeating certain sounds. Alliteration is the repetition of initial consonant sounds, assonance the repetition of vowel sounds

-**Irony:** Reveals levels of contrasting meaning, what is said is often not accurate or true

Verbal Irony: Involves what one does not mean

Situational Irony: Occurs when, someone is laughing at a misfortune of another, but then it happens to them

Dramatic Irony: Within a writing, when the readers know what's going on but the actors don't

-**Metaphor:** describes an idea or an object in terms of another idea or object

Dead metaphor: cliches are expressions that have been used so much that they don't have any meaning left

-**Personification:** allows a writer to imbue inanimate objects with human characteristics

-**Simile:** Like a metaphor, it considers one idea in terms of another but with the use of like or as

-**Tone:** attitude towards you subject and audience can be revealed through your tone of voice

Sentence Variety

-**Balanced Sentences:** Sentences that are balanced deliberately repeat a word, a phrase, or a clause structure and therefore tend to be memorable

-**Anaphora:** is similar to the balanced sentence in that there's a repetition, but it is repeated at the beginning of several consecutive sentences

-**Paragraph Length:** can be varied to create interesting effect

Logical Fallacies

-errors in reasoning, they are not logically sound, but are powerful

Critical Reading

1. Your own prejudices: It is easy to reject an argument that you don't agree with out of hand
2. Understand the context of the work you read: Where a reading comes from and whom it is written for often affect its meaning
3. The author's approach: Authors usually write about ideas that they believe, and their writing is invariably affected by their beliefs

Strategies for Persuasion

1. Use of Language: Denotations and Connotations. Writers choose words but only for their literal meanings but also for their acquired meanings and associations
Up Labeling and Down Labeling: These involve the use of particular words to create favourable or unfavourable responses
Innuendo and Implied Statement: This rhetorical strategy could be used to manipulate the reader's response
Figurative Language: This strategy can make meaning more vivid, which is fair enough as long as the image accurately reflects the situation it renders
2. Strategies for Persuasion: Do not accept authorities unquestioningly they may be quoted or paraphrased out of context
3. Opinions and Generalizations: Watch for unsubstantiated opinions and generalizations.
4. Appeals: Recognize when the author is appealing to your sense of pity, indignation or outrage, rather than to reason

Errors in Reasoning

1. Is the author avoiding the question? Talk around the problem without coming to terms with it
2. Is the author begging the question? Evidence the same as the conclusion or in order to accept the evidence you need to accept the conclusion
3. Is the author saying that something is true simply because there is no evidence to show that it is false? This argument is a common, if illogical, defence for the existence of an omnipotent being

4. Is the author failing to apply his or her reasoning and standards of judgement consistently? Special pleading, condoning premarital cohabitation in principle, but condemn it when practised by their own children
5. Is the author attempting to discredit an argument by bringing irrelevant, often personal, considerations against the other party?
6. Is the author indulging only in black and white thinking? Thinking only in terms of extremes while ignoring the possibilities in between
7. Is the author substituting the converse for the proposition? An eloquent way of saying that the author has switched to “if” and the “then” in a statement
8. Is the author substituting the inverse for the proposition? Error involves an if-then statement, making them both negative
9. Is the author drawing conclusions on the basis of similarities between things which are not very similar? When the two subjects being compared are not comparable and the difficulties of achieving the two are not necessarily comparable either
10. Is the author being superstitious? Concluding that, because one thing follows another, it is caused by the first
11. Is the author making non sequiturs? Catch all phrase for the most obvious errors in logical reasoning translates as “it does not follow”
12. Strawman fallacy Setting up this fallacy involves invoking a weak or imagines argument by an opponent and then refuting it
13. Ad Hominem Attacking a person rather than their ideas or premise

Identifying and Writing About Rhetorical Strategies

10 Steps to Writing about Essays

1. Reading the Essay (identify main theses and supporting points)
2. Presenting Introductory Details (rhetorical aim)
3. Consider the context of the piece
4. Pay attention to diction, syntax, and tone

5. Pay attention to the methods of development
6. Selecting Data and Formulating Your Thesis
7. Arranging and Developing Body Paragraphs
8. Concluding
9. Proofreading
10. Crafting a Title

Purpose and Thesis of the Essay in terms of its main rhetorical aim

1. Expressive: To create a mood, describe a setting, or tell a story, trying to make the audience feel immediately involved with the images in a story, often eliciting an emotional response
2. Expository: Gives the audience information about a subject or a process; it exposes the audience to new information
3. Argumentative: Attempts to convince the audience of the author's point of view on an issue

Most essays combine these three aims, but one predominates

In Class Exam Review

Format:

Part one (35%) - Paragraph per question

Will assess critical reading skills by asking you 4 short answer questions about the author's argument and the rhetorical strategies they use in order to develop that argument

Part two (65%) - Substantial essay

Will ask you to construct a well organized critical essay in response to a specific question about the attached article (you will be given a choice between 3 different essay questions)

Topics to review for Final:

- Methods of Development
- Types of Appeal
- Identifying and writing about rhetorical strategies
- Logical Fallacies/ Errors in Reasoning