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GED 2002 LESSON PLAN

Activity Title – **GED Five-Paragraph Essay**

Goal/Objective: The student will learn to breakdown an essay topic into ideas that follow a logical sequence by using an outline. The student will then write his/her essay from the outline.

Materials Needed: GED ESSAY TIPS HANDOUT and GED ESSAY OUTLINE HANDOUT

Lesson Outline

Introduction

Writing an effective essay for the GED Language Arts, Writing Test is a necessary but sometimes overwhelming process. Learning to breakdown an essay topic into an outline will simplify this process and will help the student focus on one idea at a time. Once the essay topic has been simplified to an outline, the student can then begin to write his/her essay one paragraph at a time in a logical sequence.

Activity

1. Go over the **GED ESSAY TIPS HANDOUT** with the student.
2. Discuss each **PRE-WRITING** tip from the handout.
3. Discuss each **ORGANIZATION** tip from the handout. Help the student choose a topic that can be supported easily with two to four examples or reasons. To choose a topic, brainstorm for ideas or pick from the suggested topics and the bottom of the handout.
4. Go over the **GED ESSAY OUTLINE HANDOUT** with the student.
5. Express to the student that an outline is just writing down simple words or descriptions for each section of the essay. Have the student work alone to come up with this outline. Go through each section of the outline with the student to make sure the student has kept their ideas solid and parallel.
6. Discuss each **WRITING** tips from the handout.
7. Have the student write their essay by following the guidelines listed. The student should keep each idea flowing in the same sequence the outline followed.

Evaluation of Activity

Discuss the essay in detail with the student. Talk about how each idea relates to the topic sentence and the main topic. Make sure each idea is explained with **solid and parallel** examples or reasons.

Extension Activity

Have the student practice writing several essays using this outline handout with different topics. Assign the student a topic or two that they did not choose as one of the practice essays. (The student will not be able to choose a topic at the GED testing center.)

GED ESSAY TIPS HANDOUT

PRE-WRITING

1. Indent all paragraphs.
2. Start all sentences with a capital letter and stop sentences with a period, question mark, or exclamation mark.
3. Use proper punctuation and capitalization.
4. Spell words correctly.
5. Make paper neat and easy to read.

ORGANIZATION

1. Before writing your essay, brainstorm for ideas.
 2. Choose one idea that you think you can support with three or four examples/reasons.
 3. Organize your ideas into an outline using the following guidelines. See backside of this paper.
1. **INTRODUCTION: one paragraph**—three to four sentences long.
 - A. State the topic of the essay.
 - B. Give three to four examples or reasons that will support your topic sentence.
 2. **BODY OF ESSAY: three supporting paragraphs**—each four to six sentences long.
 - A. State your first example/reason from your introductory paragraph.
 - B. List two to three specific details about that example.
 - C. State your second example/reason from your introductory paragraph.
 - D. List two to three specific details about that example.
 - E. State your third example/reason from your introductory paragraph.
 - F. List two to three specific details about that example.
 3. **CONCLUSION: one paragraph**—three to five sentences long.
 - A. Restate your topic.
 - B. Give up to three opinions and why you feel that way about each opinion.

WRITING

Write a draft of your essay by putting the information from your outline into paragraphs and sentences.

- A. Start a new paragraph for the introduction, each supporting example/reason, and for the conclusion.
- B. Start each paragraph with a topic sentence. Good words to use in your topic sentence of each supporting paragraph would be “First,” “Second,” “Finally,” etc.
- C. Complete each paragraph by giving specific details about your topic sentence.
- D. Transition from paragraph to paragraph smoothly. Some transition words would be however, therefore, nonetheless, etc.
- E. Proofread and give your essay a title.
- F. Write a final draft.

Suggested Topics

1. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be? Why?
2. If you could look into the future, what would you see? Will daily life be different than it is now?
3. Some people say "clothes make the man." Do you agree? Why?

GED ESSAY OUTLINE HANDOUT

Fill in each space with **simple words** or descriptions.

INTRODUCTION:

Topic: _____

Example/Reason 1. _____

Example/Reason 2: _____

Example/Reason 3: _____

BODY OF ESSAY:

Example/Reason 1: _____

Specific Detail 1: _____

Specific Detail 2: _____

Specific Detail 3: _____

Example/Reason 2: _____

Specific Detail 1: _____

Specific Detail 2: _____

Specific Detail 3: _____

Example/Reason 3: _____

Specific Detail 1: _____

Specific Detail 2: _____

Specific Detail 3: _____

CONCLUSION:

Topic Restated: _____

Your Opinion 1: _____

Your Opinion 2: _____

Your Opinion 3: _____