



The Lantern English Co.
The Growing Writer

Essay Basics Practice – Syllabus

Course Description: This course will briefly review concepts taught in *Essay Basics* while allowing the student to practice one complete five-paragraph essay each week, in order to gain confidence in essay writing skills before moving on to *Growing the Essay*. This class is for students who have already completed our *Essay Basics* class, or who have experience but need additional practice in writing five-paragraph essays.

Course Outline:

Week One: Back to Basics – formatting & thesis

Week Two: Start to Finish – introduction & conclusion

Week Three: Transitions

Week Four: Using Examples

Week Five: Order of Importance

Week Six: Chronological Order

Week Seven: Compare & Contrast

Week Eight: Cause & Effect

Grading Information: All assignments will be graded using *The Growing Writer* Grading Rubric and will be averaged to receive a final course grade.



Essay Basics Practice

Lesson Five: Order of Importance

SAMPLE LESSON

In Lesson 5 of *Essay Basics*, we learned about six different organizational styles for essays. If you do not remember, they are:

- Chronological Order
- Classification
- Order of Space/Details
- Order of Importance
- Cause and Effect
- Comparison and Contrast

Each organizational style can be beneficial, depending on the topic you are writing about. Remember, often, you can mix two or more organizational styles to achieve the goal of the essay. Over the next few weeks, we will work on practice assignments for several of these organizational methods. This week, we will be focusing on **order of importance**.

This is to write details in order of their importance. Whenever there are details that range in order of significance, you should employ this method. Instead of describing the United States from west to east, you could describe it from your favorite state to your least favorite state, or visa versa. When giving instructions or advice in an essay, you can also employ this method – the steps are typically listed in order of importance.

EXAMPLE –

I have a whole list of books I enjoy, but I know a book is one of my favorites when its characters and themes stick through the years, no matter how old I was when I first read it. My favorite book of all time is *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine. It's a story I can't seem to outgrow. The main character, Ella, inspires me, and I find my heart racing with excitement every time I read the

climax, even though I have the ending memorized by now. My second favorite book might be one I read recently: *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. It is written in a way that is easily understood by most third-graders, but I find its simple sentences and dialogue make it all the more charming. After that, my favorite books begin to blend together until I cannot seem to pick one over the others. Among them are *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card, the *Ranger's Apprentice* series by John Flanagan, *Savvy* by Ingrid Law, and *The Lunar Chronicles* series by Marissa Meyer. As you can tell, I love to read!

Assignment 5: Choose one of the prompts below. Then plan and write a five-paragraph essay, using order of importance to organize your ideas. You may list your reasons in ascending or descending order of importance (least to most important or most to least important).

Remember to include a compelling introduction with a clear thesis, body paragraphs with one main point each, and a conclusion that leaves an interesting final thought for the reader. Remember to include specific examples to aid your thesis.

Focus on writing cohesive paragraphs with proper concluding sentences in addition to beneficial transition sentences at the start of each paragraph. Remember that transition sentences should be used in order to show connection to the thesis/main idea of the essay.

Ensure that the essay is formatted properly. Write your name and the date in the upper left-hand corner. Add a title centered above the essay. Properly format the paragraphs with an indented first line or a full space between each paragraph, and left-align the text. Justified text is optional but not required. Content should be typed in one of the standard fonts, size 12.

Prompt Choices –

- Be specific! Why are rules important?
- Be specific! Why is it important to know how to read?
- Be specific! Why is good time management important?