

ESL 225 Homework and Writing Assignments

Spring 2009

Homework Assignments

Week 1

1. Buy the *ESL 225 Student Packet* from the bookstore. (If the bookstore runs out of the packet, you can buy it at Printing Services.)
2. Write a narrative (a brief story) of *your own* unforgettable experience—see Writing Assignment #1 (WA#1), p. 5 of this handout. Use the information collected with your partner in class. Bring your writing to class next week--week 2. You will work on it in class.

Note: Your paragraphs should be about 10-15 sentences long, which is about 3/4 page on typing paper (8 1/2" x 11") or 2 1/2 pages of handwriting. Please try to compose your paragraph on a computer. If you choose to hand write, use dark blue or black ink, skip every other line, and use only one side of the paper.

3. Do Exercise F, *Shifting Verb Tense Practice*, on page 49 (Inserts); that's the *second* exercise on the page.
4. (a) Read page 6 for information on keeping a journal for daily practice. (b) Read page 7 to see an example of a student journal. (c) In your journal, write about week 1. (Summarize what you did in class and explain how you felt about it.) Bring your journal to class next week for a quick check.
5. Read page 38—WA#1 Peer Review Sheet, Narration.
6. Fill out the Student Information Form and bring it to class next week.

Week 2

1. Revise and proofread your WA #1. Add detail based on your partner's feedback, and change anything you think needs to be changed. Put it in a safe place because it will become part of the next assignment.
2. Write WA #2 (p. 5 -- this handout). Give reasons (explain) why the experience you wrote about last week is so unforgettable to you. Bring it to class next week--week 3.
3. Write in your journal about week 2. Summarize what you did in class and explain how you felt about it.

Week 3

1. Read p. 45, *Essential Elements of a Paragraph*, (Inserts) and p. 32, *Run-on Sentences*, Student Packet.
2. Read the two student models on pages 13 and 14: *The Loma Prieta Earthquake* and *The Gulf War*. These models will help you get an idea of what WA #3 should look like and how your ideas should be organized and developed.
3. Revise WA #1 (narration from week 2) and WA #2 (explanation) based on today's lesson on paragraph structure. Then, put both paragraphs together for a new two-paragraph writing assignment — WA #3. For WA#3, do not submit your revised WA#1 and WA#2 as two separate pieces of writing. WA#3 has to be one new piece of writing that has two revised paragraphs. (See p. 5 of this handout.) **Staple a checklist to your paper** and bring it to class next week--week 4.
4. Write in your journal about week 3. Summarize what you did in class and how you felt about it. (Your teacher will check your journal in week 6, so write as soon as possible after each class. That way, you won't forget what you did in class and you won't fall behind.)

Week 4

1. Write in your journal about week 4. Explain how you felt about the lesson and correcting your writing.
2. Review everything you've learned in ESL 225 about academic paragraphs to get ready to write in class.
3. Be on time next week, ready to write and be sure to bring a blue book.
4. Reminder: Pick up your WA#3 from your teacher's mail tray.

Week 5

1. Write in your journal about how it felt to write in class.
2. Have your two journal entries ready to be checked at your conference.
3. Read over the instructions for WA # 5 to get ready to discuss the assignment.

Week 6

1. Do WA #5, *Description of your Favorite Possession and Explanation of why it is special*. Write a full draft of the two paragraphs. Remember to use descriptive words and details and write clear explanations. You will work on the assignment in class next week.
2. Write in your journal about week 6. Summarize what you did in class and explain how you felt about it.
3. Revision of WA #4 (in-class writing) is optional, and is due in class, week 7.

Week 7

1. Read the two student models on pages 24 and 25: *My Ceramic Cup* and *The Jewel Box*. These models will help you get an idea of what WA #5 should look like and how your ideas should be developed.
2. Revise WA #5 (2 paragraphs) based on the feedback from your partner. WA #5 is due in class week 8 to turn in.
3. Write in your journal about week 7. Explain how you felt about reading your partner's paragraphs and about giving and receiving feedback.

Week 8

1. Write in your journal about week 8. Explain how you felt about the grammar lesson and about correcting your own writing.
2. Read about the *Portfolio: Personal Analysis and Evaluation Assignment*, p. 6 in the Writing Assignments.
3. Bring in two journal entries to be checked at your conference.

Week 9

1. Read *ESL 225 Final Portfolio Information* on page 5 of the Student Packet, so you know exactly what is expected of you. Review all your class materials from 225. Reread all your returned writing, your journals, and your teachers' comments.
2. Begin working on your Portfolio assignment. Complete the *Personal Analysis and Evaluation Assignment Worksheet*, p. 42. You will continue working on this assignment in class next week. You can ask questions of your teacher in class next week.

Week 10

1. Revise your portfolio assignment: *Personal Analysis and Evaluation*.
2. Assemble all your work and put it in your Portfolio folder. Get everything ready to turn in next week.

NOTE: The final Portfolio is due in class week 11---***no exceptions!***

Week 11

Good luck! You have worked hard this quarter and deserve success.

ESL 225 Writing Assignments

Writing Assignment #1

Unforgettable Experience (*Narration*)

Many of us have had unforgettable experiences or events in our personal lives, at work, or in our studies. These experiences can be positive or negative.

In a paragraph, write a narration (tell the story) of an unforgettable experience that you had. Include specific details so your reader can understand what happened.

Due: week 2, in class.

Writing assignment #2

Unforgettable Experience (*Explanation*)

For Writing Assignment #1 you wrote the narration, the story, of an unforgettable experience that you had.

For Writing Assignment #2, you will write a paragraph that explains the reasons why this experience is so unforgettable.

Think about the following questions to help you: Why are the details of this experience so clear to you today? Did you learn something special from the experience? Does the experience still have meaning for you today? Why?

Due: week 3, in class.

Writing assignment #3: Two Paragraphs

Unforgettable Experience (*Narration and Explanation*)

For Writing Assignment #1 you wrote the narration, the story, of an unforgettable experience.

For Writing Assignment #2, you explained why this experience is so unforgettable.

For Writing Assignment #3, you will revise the two paragraphs you have already written to create one new piece of writing that has 2 paragraphs: *Narration and Explanation of an Unforgettable Experience*.

Be sure to include everything you've learned so far about organization, development, and grammar. Attach a Checklist to your paper.

Due: week 4, in class.

Writing assignment #4: Writing Assignment will be handed out and written in class week 5.

Optional revision: due week 7, in-class.

Writing Assignment #5: Two Paragraphs

Favorite Possession (*Description and Explanation*)

We all own an object that is special to us. It could be a gift from a loved one, like a gold ring from your grandmother or a bicycle from your uncle. Or it could be an item you bought for yourself, like a great pair of shoes or a CD player.

In one paragraph **describe** your favorite possession. (What does it look like--color, shape, size? Where did you get it? How long have you had it?).

Then, you will write a second paragraph to **explain** (give reasons and support) why this possession is so special to you.

First Draft Due: week 7, in class.

Final Draft Due: week 8, in-class.

Portfolio: Personal Analysis and Evaluation Assignment (Two-paragraphs)

Throughout this quarter, you have worked very hard to write four main paragraph assignments both in and out of class. In this final analysis, you will have the opportunity to describe your work and explain what you have learned about writing and grammar. To do this assignment, you'll need to review your class notes, homework, journals, and writing assignments. The basic assignment is that you examine the work you have done these past ten weeks, and reflect on it: What have you done? What have you learned about writing and about the subjects you wrote about? What are your strengths and weaknesses as a writer?

In the **first paragraph** of this personal analysis and evaluation, you will briefly **describe** the writing you are presenting here in your portfolio. What have you included? What are your feelings about them? Then, in the **second paragraph**, you will **explain** what you feel are strengths and weaknesses of your writing and grammar skills.

Contents of Portfolio:

1. Personal Analysis and Evaluation (15 points)
2. Writing Assignment #3: Narration and Explanation of an Unforgettable Experience (1 point)
3. Writing Assignment #4: In-Class Paragraph: Explanation (1 point)
4. Writing Assignment #5: Description and Explanation of a Favorite Possession (1 point)
6. Four journal entries of your choice (2 points)

Entire Portfolio Due: Week 11, in class