**7th Grade- Quarter 2 Test 2 Study Guide**

**Part I: Argumentative Essay Writing**

**Introduction Paragraph Format**

* Hook
* Thesis Statement (Claim/Argument)
* 3 Reasons
* Closing Sentence

**Argumentative essays:**

* Take a position on an issue
* Require solid evidence to back up a claim
* Have a counterclaim that recognizes the opposing point of view, while arguing your own

**Hook:** A hook is an attention-grabber, used to draw your reader in. Some examples of hooks include: facts, statistics, anecdotes, rhetorical question, important statement, reveal a common misconception, and/or an inspiring quote.

* **Example (reveal a common misconception):** “While most coffee enthusiasts would tell you that their favorite drink comes from a bean, they would be wrong. Coffee is actually made from a seed that is simply called a bean.”

**Thesis Statement:** A thesis statement focuses your ideas into one or two sentences. It should present the topic of your paper and also make a comment about your position in relation to the topic. Your thesis statement should tell your reader what the paper is about and also help guide your writing and keep your argument focused.

* **Example of an argumentative thesis statement:** *High school graduates should be required to take a year off to pursue community service projects, before entering college in order to increase their maturity and global awareness.*

**Direct Quotations:** Direct quotations involve incorporating another person's exact words into your own writing.

**Examples:**

* Mr. Johnson, who was working in his field that morning, said, "The alien spaceship appeared right before my own two eyes."
* Although Mr. Johnson has seen odd happenings on the farm, he stated that the spaceship "certainly takes the cake" when it comes to unexplainable activity.
* "I didn't see an actual alien being," Mr. Johnson said, "but I sure wish I had."

Quotations are most effective if you use them sparingly and keep them relatively short. Too many quotations in a research paper will get you accused of not producing original thought or material- plagiarism (they may also bore a reader who wants to know primarily what YOU have to say on the subject).

**Paraphrasing:** your own rendition of essential information and ideas expressed by someone else, presented in a new form.

#### Some examples to compare:

* **The original passage:** Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes. Lester, James D. Writing Research Papers. 2nd ed. (1976): 46-47.
* **A legitimate paraphrase:** In research papers students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim (Lester 46-47).
* **An acceptable summary:** Students should take just a few notes in direct quotation from sources to help minimize the amount of quoted material in a research paper (Lester 46-47).
* **A plagiarized version:** Students often use too many direct quotations when they take notes, resulting in too many of them in the final research paper. In fact, probably only about 10% of the final copy should consist of directly quoted material. So it is important to limit the amount of source material copied while taking notes.

**Informational vs. Argumentative Essays**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Informational** | **Argumentative** |
| Explains why, how, or what  Takes a neutral approach  Does not take a side  Includes ideas that explain and support  Is reflective | States an opinion or what you want  Gives reasons why  Uses persuasive techniques  Includes ideas that explain and support  Includes a counterclaim |

**Part II: Persuasive Techniques**

**You will need to know, understand, and recognize these persuasive techniques in advertisements.**

**Appeal to authority-** important people or experts support an argument

**Appeal to trust**- if people believe and trust in you, you’re more likely to persuade them

**Appeal to emotion-** getting people to feel happy, sad, angry, or another emotion

**Appeal to reason**- reasoning with facts, numbers, information, and logic

**Plain folks**- people will believe you if you appear to be the “Average Joe.”

**Bandwagon**- if everyone believes it, it must be true

**Repetition-** repeating or presenting information in patterns

**Rhetorical question**- questions that are not intended to be answered, but rather to make consumers think.

**Testimonial**- a well-known person supports a product or service

**Part III: Vocabulary Skills**

**You will need to know what each of these words mean and how they are used correctly in a sentence.**

**Apathy (n.)- indifference or the lack of interest or concern**

*People have shown surprising apathy toward these important social problems.*

**Municipal (adj.)- relating to a city or town**

*Restaurants must provide one space for every 100 square feet of floor area, while the ratio for retailers is one space for every 250 square feet of floor area, according to Laguna’s municipal code.*

**Observation (n.)- the act of watching something**

*Her constant observations about the weather bored me.*

**Exhort (v.)- make an urgent appeal to others**

*He exhorted his people to take back their land.*

**Superfluity (n.)- overabundance or excess**

*She spends most of her money on designer clothes and other superfluities.*

**Intangible (n.)- something that is hard to describe because it cannot be perceived by the senses**

*Leadership is an intangible asset to the company.*

**Taper (v.)- to gradually get thinner**

*You’ll find the symptoms begin tapering gradually about 24 hours after you take the medicine.*

**Austerity (adj.)- a plain and simple quality**

*The austerity of their lifestyle was surprising.*

**Proliferation (n.)- the fast growth of something**

*Rumors about the incident proliferated on the internet.*

**Precipitous (adj.)- very steep, like a cliff**

*People were shocked by his precipitous fall from political power.*