

Chapter 4 Exercises

Lesson 4.1: Rhetorical Essay Structures

1. Read the following process analysis paragraph. Identify the two sentences that should be switched.

When writing an essay, there are several steps you should take. Pre-writing is the first step; you must brainstorm ideas to determine a narrowed topic for your essay. Once you have finished a complete draft, you should go through and revise for content and organization. Once you have a good idea of your narrowed topic and how to support your main idea, you can start drafting. Toward the end of the process, you'll need to edit for grammar and spelling, and you may participate in a peer review. The very last step is to submit your essay according to your instructor's guidelines.

2. Identify the sentence that best describes the structure of a narrative essay.

- It employs a formal essay structure based on a thesis statement and a logical progression of supporting ideas.
- It often follows a chronological sequence or a story pattern.

3. Read the following paragraph. Identify its organizational structure.

There were several pivotal events that led me to move back to my hometown. While it was a difficult decision, I was confident in my choice, and I felt as though my reasons were justified. First, I simply missed being with loved ones during important life events; I hated missing birthdays, holidays, and anniversaries year after year. Similarly, I wanted my family to be more involved in the lives of my children. My kids hardly knew their own grandparents or cousins, and I wanted that to change for their sake. Finally, my spouse, who has never moved to a different state, was supportive, excited, and ready for change. All these factors contributed to my decision to move back home, and I couldn't be happier.

- Compare and contrast
- Definition
- Process
- Cause and effect

4. Identify the topic that would be the best choice for a compare-and-contrast essay.

- How to fix a crack in the foundation of a home
- The transformative growth that infants experience in their first year of life
- The similarities and differences between coffee and energy drinks

5. Identify the topic that would be the best choice for a definition essay.

- The contributing factors and consequent effects of laziness
- How to balance chemical equations
- The true meaning of integrity

Lesson 4.2: The Introduction

6. Identify the hook that is most likely to be considered a cliché.

- “The risk of a wrong decision is preferable to the terror of indecision.” -Maimonides
- “Everything happens for a reason.”
- “I have always had a dread of becoming a passenger in life.” -Princess Margaret

7. Read the following introduction. Identify the thesis statement.

W. Eugene Smith said, “The world just does not fit conveniently into the format of a 35mm camera.” Before cameras, taking a selfie required sitting in front of a painter for hours, even days. Now, anyone with a cell phone can take crystal clear photos. Smartphones, tablets, and (of course) cameras have made simple photography easy and accessible. However, an iPhone snapshot is still wildly simpler than professional photography, which requires extensive training, camera operation knowledge, and editing software prowess.

8. Identify the term that matches the following definition.

Writing that communicates the characteristics or qualities of a thing or event

- Persuasive writing
- Descriptive writing
- Narrative writing

9. Read the following incomplete introduction. Of the three standard introduction components, which one is missing?

If you’ve ever seen a red front door, the family inside might be celebrating. Traditionally in Scotland, homeowners paint their front doors red to signify that they’ve paid off their mortgage. Creating a budget, having an emergency fund, and paying off debt by interest rate are three steps that can help anyone begin the journey to being debt-free.

- An attention-grabbing hook
- A concise introduction to the topic and its relevance to the audience
- A thesis statement

10. Draft the introduction for a compare-and-contrast essay about working vs. not working as a full-time student. Make sure to include the three standard components of an introduction.

Lesson 4.3: Thesis and Purpose Statements

11. Identify the strongest thesis statement.

- Holidays are difficult for people who tend to get upset and sad around that time of year.
- The holiday season is a difficult time for people dealing with emotional struggles because it puts pressure on them to act or feel happier than they are, and that pressure can feel magnified when surrounded by cheerful friends and family.
- “As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December’s bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same.” -Donald E. Westlake

12. Identify the true statement about thesis statements.
- Thesis statements should assert the writer's perspective, based on facts.
 - Stating your personal preference is usually enough for a thesis.
 - A thesis statement should be a broad, oversimplified topic sentence.
 - Your thesis may just be a quotation from an authority figure.
13. Identify the strongest thesis statement.
- Having children is a serious commitment, and those who seek to start a family should first consider the financial, emotional, and physical demands of parenting.
 - Many young adults are waiting to have kids later in life or not having them at all.
 - According to a 2019 *CBS News* report, the average age of first-time mothers is twenty-nine, which is significantly higher than the 1970 average of twenty-four.
14. Read the following thesis statement. Does the author correctly use the transition word *consequently*?
- Planning a wedding is a time-consuming process as it requires regular communication and often stressful coordination with multiple vendors; **consequently**, it is often an enjoyable experience for the happy couple.
- No, the transition is used incorrectly.
 - Yes, the transition is used correctly.
15. Wes has developed the following working thesis statement. What strategies would help him strengthen it? Identify all that apply.
- Everyone should learn Spanish.
- Identify a specific method of making Spanish instruction widely accessible
 - Provide specific reasons why it is important for everyone to learn Spanish
 - List other languages that people should learn
 - Include a quote from a bilingual celebrity

Lesson 4.4: Body Paragraphs

16. Consider the following scenario. Is Jennie's statement correct?
- Ned's study group is reviewing body paragraphs in preparation for the midterm. His classmate, Jennie, says, "A body paragraph contains the thesis of the paper."
- No, Jennie's statement is incorrect.
 - Yes, Jennie's statement is correct.
17. Read the following passage. Which sentences serve as supporting details? Identify all that apply.
- Hamlet* is a classic play, due in part to Shakespeare's insight into how humans cope with loss and how grief impacts the mind. Hamlet experiences nearly all five stages of grief, a concept explained in modern psychology by Elizabeth Kübler-Ross. Hamlet's overwhelming depression leads him to question everything he believes in, including his religion. *Hamlet* was first performed in 1602, which shows that even four hundred years ago, Shakespeare was familiar with the human psyche. In later paragraphs, we will explore how Shakespeare used word play and dialogue to build richly complex characters.

18. Read the following body paragraph. Identify the topic sentence.

Walt Disney, a man who has shaped countless lives worldwide with childlike joy, first aspired to be in the military. At sixteen years old, Disney dropped out of high school in hopes of joining the Army. The Army rejected him due to his age, but he was able to get a job with the American Red Cross. Fortunately, his career path steered away from the military and instead toward being a cartoonist and businessman, and he went on to create the characters, movies, and theme parks that so many people know and love.

19. Read the following paragraph. Identify the sentence that expresses the main idea.

There has been great debate over the legacy of America's fortieth president, Ronald Reagan. Some people argue that Reagan helped to boost the economy and peacefully end the Cold War. However, others feel that Reagan left a trail of financial issues and a rise in homelessness as a result of his time in office.

20. Read the following sentences that belong in a body paragraph. Identify the order that they should be in.

(A) Fortunately, on his way home from his last presentation, he ran into an old friend who had just been made editor of Vanguard Books.

(B) Dr. Seuss almost gave up his dream of becoming an author after presenting his first manuscript to twenty-seven publishers without success.

(C) Vanguard published Seuss's *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, and a beloved icon of children's literature was born.

A, B, C

C, B, A

B, A, C

C, A, B

Lesson 4.5: Transitions

21. Identify the sentence that uses the transition *although* correctly.

- I thought the new instructor was going to be harsh and unfriendly; although, she was quite friendly during the entire class.
- The kids wanted to spend all weekend outside; although, the mosquitoes were so bad, they had to spend most of it inside.
- Although Steven stopped to speak with a coworker after the meeting, he was still able to make his lunch date.

22. Read the following paragraph. Identify the sentence that needs a transition word or phrase to connect it to the other ideas in the paragraph.

We spent all spring preparing for the national championship. When the hot July day arrived, we were nervous but ready. During the game, we played just as we had practiced. We celebrated at the local pizza place.

23. Identify the sentence that includes a cause-and-effect transition word/phrase.

- An additional consideration is the candidate's work ethic.
- Above all, never leave the keys in your car for any reason.
- Inevitably, the felon received a prison sentence for her crime.

24. Draft a body paragraph explaining three things you've done in the last week. Use chronological transition words and phrases that show the progression of your ideas. Underline all the transitions in your paragraph.

25. Read the following passage. Identify the transition phrase.

Larissa enjoys cooking healthy meals at home that are brimming with organic fruits and vegetables. On the other hand, when she eats out, she enjoys splurging on sugary drinks, red meat, and fried potatoes.

Lesson 4.6: The Conclusion

26. Read the following scenario. Identify the concluding strategy Noah has used.

Noah has decided to conclude his essay on *The Lord of the Flies* with a powerful line spoken by one of the characters.

- Connect the topic to the future
- Provide a surprising statistic
- Use a powerful quote

27. Identify the strategy used in the following conclusion statement.

In the next two to three years, initiatives for discovering sustainable energy sources are expected to increase exponentially.

- Conjecturing what's to come
- Recommending steps the reader should take
- Presenting a brief story that illustrates the main point

28. Draft the conclusion for an essay arguing your stance on whether or not college athletes should be paid.

29. Consider the following scenario. Identify the sentence that indicates Toby is *not* ready to write the conclusion.

Toby's essay includes evidence from five different scholarly sources. He considers both supporting and opposing evidence on his topic. However, he has not made his own stance or argument clear.

30. Marcus is concluding an essay on the following topic: the theme of blindness in *Oedipus Rex*. Identify the sentence that would be most effective in his conclusion.

- Blindness is also a prevalent theme in *King Lear*.
- Additionally, *Oedipus Rex* is a story about the dangers of literal and figurative blindness, as experienced by Teiresias, Oedipus, and Jocasta.
- Oedipus learns from tragic experience that, although honesty can be admirable, stubbornness is often the seed of our own undoing.