

Good Morning Definition Essay 7th Grade Writers!



Today, we're going to plan and organize your definition essays for Comp. U3, L3.

Please have a dictionary by your side!

Definition Essay



The definition essay explains the meaning of a word or a concept or a term. The purpose of the definition essay is to help the reader understand the meaning of an unfamiliar term or clarify the meaning of an abstract or vague term.

Definition Essay



Use examples, anecdotes, quotations, or facts to support the thesis.

Anecdotes are short and amusing or interesting stories about a real incident or person.

Connotation vs. Denotation



Denotations are the formal dictionary definitions of a word.

Connotations often imply emotional, informal, or slang cases of the word.

Example 1

Rat— Denotative meaning: a rodent;

Connotative meaning: a person who tattles on other people or who exhibits undesirable or dishonest behavior.

Example 2

Card— Denotative meaning: a sturdy, but small, piece of rectangular shaped paper used for business purposes or card games.

Connotative meaning: a lively, entertaining person or the act of requiring proof of age before sales of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.

Connotation vs. Denotation



Denotations are the formal dictionary definitions of a word.

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Word(s)	Denotation	Connotation
cool		
snake		
red rose		
dog		
owl		
house		

Connotation vs. Denotation



Success— Popular belief: success means getting rich

Personal interpretation: success means either overcoming obstacles or other unique interpretations.

Beauty— Popular belief: good looking

Personal interpretation: self-sacrifice, loving, forgiving, or other unique interpretations.

Organizing: Introduction



1. Lead-in: Introduce the topic (the concept or term you are going to define).
2. Transition: Make transition to thesis statement.
3. Thesis Statement: Define at least three aspects of the meaning of the concept or term (e.g. “Country music can be best understood if we know its history, its pattern of rhythm, and its themes.”).

Organizing: Body



- **Paragraph 1**
- 1. **Topic Sentence:** Present the first aspect of the meaning of the concept or term (e.g., “The meaning of country music depends heavily on its history.”).
- 2. **Supporting Details:** Explain what/how/why.
- 3. **Closing Remarks:** Wrap up this paragraph
- **Body Paragraph 2**
- 1. **Topic Sentence:** Present the second aspect of the meaning of the concept or term.
- 2. **Supporting Details:** Explain what/how/why.
- 3. **Closing Remarks:** Wrap up this paragraph.
- **Body Paragraph 3**
- 1. **Topic Sentence:** Present the third aspect of the meaning of the concept or term.
- 2. **Supporting Details:** Explain what/how/why.
- 3. **Closing Remarks:** Wrap up this paragraph.

Organizing: Conclusion



1. Your conclusion should reemphasize your thesis and main points made in your paper.
2. Leave the reader with something to think about.

Brainstorming Ideas



Brainstorming Ideas

- Kindness
- Sense of humor
- Love
- Charisma
- Team player
- Optimism
- Beauty
- Respect
- Ambitions
- Patriotism

Depression
Chronic illness
Freak
Jock
Geek
Loser
Fighter
Pacifist



Planning a Definition Essay



- Remember: A definition essay is writing that explains what a term means. When writing a definition essay, remember to tell readers what term is being defined, to present a clear and basic definition, and to use facts, examples, or anecdotes that readers will understand.
- Whatever essay topic you choose, you should be interested in the subject and familiar with it. It would be great if you add your personal experience in the matter you are going to define.