**Block G Essay Notes:**

November 10,2017

English 11

**Introduction**

**Pages 1-3**

MISCONCEPTION: *Writing is like following a blueprint:   
I figure it all out in advance and just fill in the details.*

* *Makes us view writing as technology and not art*
* *Good writing comes from exploration*
* *Instead of blueprints, write drafts*

*MISCONCEPTION: If I don’t hit it right the first time, I’ve failed.*

* *There is always room to proofread and correct*
* *Writing is a process*

*MISCONCEPTION: When I write, I am speaking on paper.*

* *When you are writing you get to pick your words more carefully than when you speak*
* *Language in written form can be planned*
* *Writing is the product of time you spend working on it*

*MISCONCEPTION: The best words are the biggest words.*

* *When you write you don’t want to confuse your reader*
* *Use words that flow and if you want to expand your language use a thesaurus*

Pages 4.5-5.5

Why am I writing ?

* To communicate something of value
* Choose the topic that mean the most to you (if no topic seems significant, devise a way to make one significant)
* Research shows motivation to be the single greatest factor in writing performance, and motivation comes from writing about things that matter
* just recording events may not be enough, add your feelings, perceptions, conclusions about those events

How big is my topic ?

* Classroom essays are shorter than most people realize ( 250-500 words )
* narrowing the essay topic is more important than most people realize
* It is in specifics that we best see generalities
* When you choose a topic judge its size - and if you have to, change its size

Pages 5.5-6:

An author’s message is often a value of judgement. Most essays take a stance either pro or con toward their subject. Some avoiding judging their subject directly, but others send messages.

A statement normally comes out near the beginning of an essay. It is an introductory sentence or passage that does more than tell what the topic is. It lets your reader know what's coming and commits to a purpose all the rest of the essay must convey. It's your guide as you write it.

When writing to a specific audience you must fight a misconception shared by many people: everyone is like me. This is a form of egotism and it may lurk as a natural assumption in the back of our minds. Assuming everyone is like you, readers may not accept or understand the message because they are not like you. IRONY They have had different life experiences, so now they have different and values. Any argument build on partisan foundation will collapse if the reader does not accept that foundation. Instead, build facts or ideas that your reader probably does accept. Then, avoid an open display of bias. If you write about statistics and avoid the insult of explaining elementary points, you avoid conflict. The more open you become to the individuality of your reader, the more open your reader becomes to the message. It is a matter of mutual respect.

Prewriting (page 7-8)

Brainstorming

* Helps you identify your main topic with different tips and tricks.
* Such as a goodnight sleep, have your favorite food or have a cup of coffee.
* But in the end it avoids the real issue.
* Keep writing the same thing until you find your next topic or idea. This means ‘’breaking the ice’’ this could lead to a page of scribbling

Pages 8.5 - 9.5

**The First Words**

(in a very short composition your *thesis statement* may serve also as the first words)

* **Background Information:** telling the circumstances in which topic is set
* **Anecdote:** a brief story, usually of a humorous or dramatic incidence, can lead into the topic
* **Quotation or Allusion:** the words of a philosopher, of a news report, a recognized specialist in the subject, or of anyone with close experience of it can be used to break the ice
* **Sensory Imagery:** vivid description can attract a reader’s interest to the topic
* **A Striking Comparison or Contrast:** showing how things are like like or unlike each other is a dramatic way to introduce a topic
* **Narrative:** telling a story upon which the essay is based
* **An Unusual or Puzzling Statement:** such an opening appeals to the reader’s curiosity
* **Figures of Speech:** a striking *metaphor, simile* or *personification* can spark the opening

**The Body**

* **A body paragraph allows the writer to communicate his or her key ideas or points to his or her’s reader. A body paragraph can persuade the reader or can describe what is happening in a story. Body paragraphs are important as it is the foundation of a story and without it there would be no story.**
* **Narration:** In simple time order, from the first event to the last event, tell a story that illustrates the point.
* **Example:** Give one in-depth example that explains the point, or a number of shorter examples.
* **Description:** Recreate for your reader, through vivid language, your own or someone else’s experience with the subject.
* **Cause and Effect:** Explain by showing how one situation or event causes another.
* **Comparison and Contrast:** Explain by showing how two things are like or unlike each other.
* **Analogy and Related Devices:** In comparing two things, use the one to explain the other.
* **Classification:** Make a point by dividing your subject into parts, then explaining each in turn.
* **Process Analysis:** Show how something is done or how something happens.
* **Argumentation and Persuasion:** Using any pattern that works, make your point through logic and/or emotion.

Page 10.5-11.95

* In the most case the only form actually chosen by a writer is the main one that organizes the whole essay.
* Use your subject to choose the right form.
* Sort all your notes into groups of related material for the longer essay, using a pair of scissors if necessary to divide unrelated points.
* When everything is in two stacks, or five stacks or ten, let your mind work freely.
* Pick the topic that strikes you as most interesting.

***Transitions***

***Page 11-12***

* Allows someone to move onto another topic within the same page
* One point ends where another begins
* Examples: although, but, on the other hand, because, as a result, since, first, next, last, for example, in conclusion
* Setting points in most logical order
* Moving readers from one main part of essay to the next

Pages 12-13.5

The closing; reference back to the opening

* The contrast or reversal exploits dramatic potential to the closing
* A question and an answer are a common means of closing
* Quotation can add a authority and interest
* Transition signals ex. words, phrases, or sentence, off transition commonly signal the closing
* Revealing the significance makes for a strong closing
* Conclusion is one of the many closing techniques- the drawing of a conclusion from the discussion in the essay.

Prediction a short look at the subjects future can very logically close a discussion of that subject’s past or present.

**P. 13.5**

* *Closings like openings can use more than one technique*
* *Don’t force a specific style*
* *Build your entire essay towards a “climax”*
* *Put your points in order from least important to most important / least useful to most useful*
* *Like a performance, you set the stage for the dramatic power of the final position*
* *Reiterate your point from the intro*

Closing

-Reference to the opening

**Pages 15-17**

The pages 15-17 discuss the advantages and disadvantages of writing on the computer and writing with the hand.

Advantage handwriting:

* Soft and hardware cannot brake

Disadvantage handwriting:

* It is slow (people think faster than they write)
* You can’t edit the text once it’s written

Advantage writing on computer:

* The speed of the computer eases the task
* It’s fast
* You can edit the text after you wrote it

Disadvantage writing on computer:

* You need your own computer (expensive)
* Software costs money
* Hardware can break down

Formal and informal

Formal: “formal writing is deliberate and dignified. It avoids partial sentences, mostly contractions, colloquial expressions and slang. Instead its vocabulary is standard and its sentences are often long and qualified with dependent clauses. In general it follows the accepted rules of grammar and principles of style.”

Informal: Is the opposite of formal often presented in short and many sentences and also slang.