



English II

Week 4

English II, Week 4

Crafting an Explanatory Essay

For this week, you will complete a culminating task by drafting an essay using the first three weeks' assignments. Include an introductory paragraph, at least two body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Treat this essay as a timed writing, as a first draft, broken up over a few targeted tasks. As a reminder, the essay prompt is as follows:

In Sherry Turkle's article "The Flight from Conversation," she makes the claim that we are allowing technology to have a negative effect on our personal lives and relationships. Write an explanatory essay analyzing how Turkle supports this claim. Consider her diction, rhetorical devices, and other persuasive strategies.

Complete the tasks in the following sequence.

Task 1: Page 33-34 (20 minutes) - Crafting an Introductory Paragraph

- On page 33, use the sentence frame supports in question 6 to check your thesis statement from week 3. Rework your thesis statement to improve it.
- Review an introductory paragraph (if needed) using the supports (A - N - T) in question 7 to review an effective introductory paragraph.
- On page 8, create an attention-getting statement and write your introductory paragraph.

Task 2: Page 34-35 (45 minutes) - Crafting Body Paragraphs *

- On page 34, complete question 9 by first selecting your quotes (textual evidence) for analysis.
- You can use the practice titled "Language and Writer's Craft: Embedding Questions" to help you work on your craft as a writer (page 35).
- Complete at least two body paragraphs that analyzes how Turkle builds her argument. Remember that the **prompt is explanatory**, not argumentative.

Task 3: Page 35-36 (45 minutes) - Crafting a Conclusion and Review

- On page 35, complete question 10, considering how you will wrap up this essay. Write your concluding statement or paragraph.
- On page 36, use the self-review questions to look back over your essay, treat this as a self-review (unless you have a classmate that you could digitally share the document with for peer review).
- Make any changes to your draft and then use the questions in number 12 for self-analysis.
- Take a few minutes to look back at grammar to make any final edits in number 13.

My Notes

5. Revise the following vague assertion into a thesis by replacing the phrase “a variety of strategies” with some specific strategies Turkle uses and the word “claim” with Turkle’s belief regarding the effect of technology on human relationships:

In “The Flight from Conversation,” Turkle uses a variety of strategies to support her claim.

6. Now, use these sentence frames to get started on your own thesis. Then, consult your teacher for help in selecting the best thesis for your essay. Your teacher may suggest some revisions before allowing you to move on.

Turkle uses _____, _____, and _____
to argue that _____

Turkle makes use of rhetorical devices such as _____, _____,
and _____ to illustrate _____

Turkle supports her claim that _____
through evidence such as _____, _____,
and _____

Craft the Introduction

7. An introduction generally includes three parts (ANT): (A) attention getter; (N) necessary information such as the author, title, genre, situation, or context; and (T) a thesis. Use brackets to label the ANT elements of the following introduction.

People often assume that connection enables communication. However, Sherry Turkle argues that connection makes it hard to communicate. In her article “The Flight from Conversation,” Turkle claims that although technology enables people to connect on superficial levels, it is also causing people to lose their abilities to have meaningful conversations. Turkle uses figurative language, allusions, and personal anecdotes to illustrate how tech connections are continuously allowing people to hide from one another behind their devices. By the end of her argument, this combination of strategies convinces the reader that people need to become more aware of their isolation and try to do something about it.

My Notes

- Now, note some attention-getting ideas for your essay here, such as describing a scene where someone is distracted from social interaction due to technology.

Compose Body Paragraphs and Incorporate Quotations

The body paragraphs (minimum of two to three) should each focus on a separate persuasive strategy of Turkle's and its intended effect on the reader. For example, if you've named three strategies in your thesis, each strategy should get its own body paragraph.

- Embed direct quotations from Turkle's article into each body paragraph. Remember to sandwich each quotation between your own points. Each quotation should be introduced, stated, and then analyzed. List some quotations (three to four) you plan to use here along with your reasons for choosing them.

LANGUAGE & WRITER'S CRAFT: Embedding Quotations

When writers quote directly from other sources, they must surround the borrowed words with quotation marks. This signals to readers that the words are from another writer. For example, you could quote an important line from the argument you are analyzing:

Sherry Turkle states, "Texting and e-mail and posting let us present the self we want to be."

Sometimes, however, a quotation includes words quoted from a different source or words already in quotation marks. You still use double quotation marks around the entire quote, but the quotation marks inside the quote become single quotation marks:

Turkle asserts that our addiction to technology has caused us to lower our expectations for communication and that "Shakespeare might have said, 'We are consum'd with that which we were nourish'd by.'"

PRACTICE Using these guidelines, use the following quotations from Sherry Turkle's "The Flight from Conversation" in sentences, paying attention to proper punctuation:

- A 16-year-old boy who relies on texting for almost everything says almost wistfully, "Someday, someday, but certainly not now, I'd like to learn how to have a conversation."

Blank writing area for the first practice item.

- Human relationships are rich; they're messy and demanding.

Blank writing area for the second practice item.

Write the Conclusion

- The conclusion should echo the ideas introduced earlier without repeating them directly. Also, the conclusion should answer the question, "So what?" It's a chance to comment on the significance of Turkle's argument and how she crafted it. You might consider the question *What does the text want readers to believe, feel, or do, and how successfully does it accomplish this purpose?* Note some ideas for your conclusion here.

My Notes

My Notes

Self-Review and Peer Feedback

11. Use the following checklist to review your own work. Then, swap essays with a partner and review their essay using the same checklist.

Does the essay

- include a strong claim?
- evaluate Turkle’s use of evidence, reasoning, and persuasive elements?
- include relevant text evidence that supports the claim?
- include an introduction and a conclusion?
- follow standard English conventions, with few to no spelling and grammatical errors?

Finalize Your Essay and Reflect

12. Look over the feedback you received from your peer, and decide what changes you would like to make to your essay. When you have finished incorporating these changes and finalized your essay, take a moment to reflect on the process you have just completed.

Consider the following questions:

- What aspects of your essay are you most proud of?
- What do you think makes them strong?
- What things did you have trouble with that you feel you can learn from?
- What areas do you think you need to focus on in the future in order to improve your writing?

13. Look back at your essay. Did you use correct punctuation when incorporating quotations? Revise your writing as needed.