To:        All English 110 Students

From:     Stotler

Re:        In-class Essay Hints

I.        You will be presented with two quotes; choose whichever quote you believe you can respond to most effectively. Do not choose a quote just because you agree with its sentiment. In all, this essay should about two pages in length.

II.       Once you have chosen the quote, you will need to complete two actions:
        A. Summarize the quote
        B. After you summarize the quote, take a position either in support or opposition to the quote

III.      Brainstorm a list of reasons why the author may be valid or weak in his or her opinion

IV.       Once you have brainstormed your list, remember to adhere to your position. Basically, you have two options:
        • The author is right because
        • The author is wrong because

V.        Once you begin writing your essay, your first task is to focus on the essential ideas the quote expresses. Highlight key nouns and verbs in the quote. Use these key words to write the summary of the quote for the first paragraph. Remember, your first paragraph is merely a summarization of the quote. Do not write any of your own opinions in the FIRST paragraph! You are only writing a summary of the quote in the FIRST paragraph. Include the following in your FIRST paragraph:
        A. Describe the relationship between those ideas
        B. Preface the statement by making it specific to the author:
           George Orwell believes, claims, argue. . . 
           -or- you can try beginning your quote summarization like this: According to George Orwell. . .

VI.       After you write your first paragraph that is the summarization of the quote, you are then ready to write your next few body paragraphs. The SECOND paragraph of your essay is where you will write your thesis. These following few paragraphs are the paragraphs that will be devoted to the reasons why you believe the way you do and why you either support or oppose the quote.

VI.       Finally, write one concluding paragraph in which you summarize your own
VII.

opinions/ argument/analyses.

VIII. Proof your essay by reading it backwards to check for spelling errors. Review page 244 of Troyka to ensure you have not written any run-on sentences.

Good luck to all of you! I sincerely hope that you pass. Remember, your essay must be clearly written, have a strong thesis that is followed by a balance of a controlled and focused argument with only three to five grammatical/spelling errors.