**Egghead**

**AFTER READING**

**Essay Writing: Writing an Opinion Essay**

**TASK:**

Respond to ONE of the following prompts to write a SERIES OF OPINION PARAGRAPHS.

**GOAL:** **To** **clearly state and defend an OPINION**. **YOU MUST USE EVIDENCE (quotations) FROM THE NOVEL *Egghead* TO SUPPORT YOUR OPINIONS.**

**Choose one of the following topics. You may either agree or disagree with the statements below.**

**1. Stereotypes and labels can be harmful.** Give 3 reasons to support/contradict this statement. Select three examples of stereotyping from the novel, and use them to support your points.

**2. Bystanders who don’t act are just as guilty as the lead bully.** Give 3 reasons to support this statement, and for **each** reason give at least one example from the novel to support your opinion.

**3. It is important to take responsibility for your actions.** Choose three examples from the novel and examine how characters either took or denied responsibility for their actions and the results of their choice.

**4. The novel *Egghead* is a text that should/should not be read in grade 9.** Give 3 reasons to support your opinion, and use specific examples from the text to support your points.

**STEPS TO FOLLOW**

**(CHECK THEM OFF AS YOU GO)**

**PLAN**

1. Choose a TOPIC,
2. Fill in the For/Against chart and then choose a POSITION on the topic (yes/agree, no/disagree)
3. Draft a THESIS SENTENCE stating your position. Ex: “The novel *Egghead* is a perfect novel to read in grade 9.”
4. List two points or reasons that support your position.
5. In point form, outline an explanation and example for each point.
6. Organize your points. Place your strongest point last.

**WRITE**

1. Write an introduction. Write a lead (opening sentence) to grab the reader’s attention. Include a sentence that states your position (your topic sentence), followed by a sentence that states your arguments.
2. Write the body of your opinion piece. State each point, providing explanations and examples for each.
3. Write a conclusion: restate your position in different words.

**REVIEW**

1. Review and correct. Make sure each sentence is clear, and there are no spelling or grammar mistakes.
2. Have someone else read your work, and consider any changes they suggest.

**SOME HELPFUL HINTS:**

1. Take a strong position. Make sure you know what your opinion is and stick to it – no fence-sitting allowed!
2. Start with a clear introduction that uses a powerful statement to make your point.
3. Know who your audience is, and keep the tone appropriate. Avoid being too sarcastic or flippant.
4. Use transition statements to build your argument, and to show contradiction to the opposing side. Some examples: additionally, above all, as a consequence, although, however, etc.

**Rubric: Opinion Essay**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Success Criteria** | **Level 4:****thorough** | **Level 3: considerable** | **Level 2: some** | **Level 1: limited** |
| **Knowledge and Understanding /20** |
| A single, focused opinion is developed |  |  |  |  |
| The writing includes relevant details from the text |  |  |  |  |
| Knowledge of opinion writing conventions |  |  |  |  |
| **Thinking and Inquiry: /10** |
| Outline and rough draft are completed, and point of view is thoughtfully developed |  |  |  |  |
| Logical and relevant examples and details are selected |  |  |  |  |
| **Communication : /20** |
| Writing follows a logical sequences, and points are well-organized |  |  |  |  |
| Transition words have been used to link the sequence of points and supporting details |  |  |  |  |
| A clear audience is targeted with appropriate language |  |  |  |  |
| There is correct use of spelling, grammar and punctuation. |  |  |  |  |
| **Application: /10** |
| Elements of writing an opinion essay have been applied |  |  |  |  |
| Evidence of connection between the topic and the novel  |  |  |  |  |

YOUR SELF-EVALUATION: Examine the rubric and write a few sentences about what level your work is at and why.

INSTRUCTOR COMMENTS: