Science

Kernel Essay Text Structures

Compiled by Janette Wilcken (6th grade teacher, Maypearl, Texas) from Gretchen Bernabei’s kernel essay text structures.

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Kernel Essay Text Structures

**Alerting Reader to a Problem**
- Visual image of problem
- What will happen in the future
- One plan
- Attitude change required
- Imagine if...

**Problem Awareness**
- Problem
- Causes
- Effects
- Possible solutions

**Cubing an Object**
- Describe it
- How it is used
- What it is like/unlike
- How it can change
- What it can cause

**Introducing an object/invention**
- What you know about it
- What problem the thing solves
- How the thing works
- One problem the thing creates
- Reasons it is a good idea anyway
- Data/facts to support the purpose

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### Kernel Essay Text Structures

#### Curiosity: One thing you'd like to know about
- I have sometimes wondered about...
- I know that...
- I also know that...
- But I can't figure out how...
- Even so, I will always...

#### Alternative Solution
- Problem
- Conventional solution
- The problem with that
- Another solution

#### Reflection of a lesson
- What the lesson is/was
- Flashback to the lesson
- Description of the person I learned from
- Lyrics or words you remember that person saying (on the subject)
- What I wish I could find out about it now

#### Curiosity
- I have wondered...
- I figured out that...
- Then I also figured out...
- Last I figured out...
- This all means that...
- What you can do about it...

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### Seeking an Answer

- I had this question...
- I asked somebody for an answer
- I asked somebody else to confirm the previous answer
- I tested the answer for myself with this experience
- What I learned from my experience

### Evolution of a term

- What this word meant to me when I was 4
- When I was a little older
- What the word means to me now
- What the word might mean when I am ____ (pick an age)

### Musing to an object (Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)

- Direct address and a question (something you want to know)
- Description of one physical characteristic of the object
- Description of another characteristic of the object, with a simile
- An imperative to the object: a wish or a hope

### Dilemma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choice: Staying the same or changing</th>
<th>What would change mean?</th>
<th>Biggest disadvantage of change</th>
<th>Biggest disadvantage of staying the same</th>
<th>How change might make it worse</th>
<th>What happens if you just don’t decide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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### Sensory Associations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When I hear/smell/see...</th>
<th>It reminds me of...</th>
<th>Which makes me feel...</th>
<th>Because...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Syllogism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If this is true...</th>
<th>And this is true...</th>
<th>Then this must be true...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Elimination or confirmation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I’ve never been sure if</th>
<th>But I’ve always suspected/thought</th>
<th>Because once I experienced</th>
<th>Which made me think that</th>
<th>And I finally realized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Explanation of a term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dictionary-like definition</th>
<th>Your personal definition</th>
<th>What feeling you get from it</th>
<th>What others make you think</th>
<th>Example in society today</th>
<th>Anther example (optional)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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