Grateful acknowledgment to student writers of the gorgeous SHARE essays herein; students are from Edinburg and Granbury.

This packet constitutes a crash-course, a 10-day plan for sessions leading up to the English EOC test.

The lesson pages included in this packet come from this book.

Fun-Size Academic Writing for Serious Learning
Calendar... countdown menu

10  11 Minute Essays
9   Short Story Kernel essay
8   Find Short Story Kernels
7   Details: color it up
6   Snapshots
5   Pitchforking
4   Find the Kernel essays: expository
3   Renaming
2   Devolved Essay
1   Gallery walk
Look at the photograph.

Write a story about a challenging adventure. The adventure can be real or imagined. Be sure that your story is focused and complete and that it has an interesting plot and engaging characters.

The names of individuals mentioned in the compositions have been changed to protect the confidentiality of the students whose responses appear in this guide.
English I Writing
Expository Prompt

Read the information in the box below.

The digital audio player, also known as the MP3 player, first became available to the general public in 1996. Unlike the compact disc player, this technology did not require that music be stored on separate discs. MP3 players have now become the dominant medium for listening to music.

Think about the new technologies that people use in everyday life.

Write an essay explaining the effect of one new technology on people's lives.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling
These are 2 basic structures seen in most high-scoring papers.

The STAAR Genre Structures - English I

**Literary (Short story)**

A Completely Made up Story

- Moment involving character(s)
- Moment when a problem arises
- How the characters try (unsuccessfully) to solve the problem
- How the characters solve it (or deal with it)

(from Reviving the Essay)

- Write a kernel essay (one sentence per box in the structure) in past tense. Detail with thoughtshots, snapshots, dialogue, up to 26 lines.

**Expository essay (idea)**

Generic Five Paragraph Essay Minus One

- Truism about the topic
- Part 1 + Part 2 (see the choices below)
- Restate the truism about the topic

Part 1 and 2:
- One feature/another feature or before/after or cause/effect or pick 2 impact: physical/environmental/financial/social/emotional or pick 2 illustrations: from a book/movie/history

- Write a kernel essay (one sentence per box in the structure) in present tense.
- For the opening sentence, use a three-in-one infoshot. Detail with compound predicates, items in a series, participial phrases, ba-da-bing sentences, and a rhetorical device or two (like anaphora, anadiplosis, scesis onomatop, enumeratio), up to 26 lines
Read an 11-Minute Essay

It's one way of responding to any expository prompt.

10 days before the test
Recognizing and Illustrating an Important Theme

What Writers Do — Writers may examine a common theme or truism using examples that go beyond a work of literature.

What This Writer Does — In his introduction, Ale introduces a truism, or life lesson. He then illustrates this truth using a book, a movie, and a personal friendship as examples. He concludes with an “I wonder...” statement, which keeps the reader thinking.

Activity for your class:
1. Invite students to read the piece silently or aloud.
2. Using highlighters, find and color these:
   - green—book
   - yellow—movie
   - blue—personal experience
3. Circle the truism at the beginning and the “I wonder...” question at the end.

Challenge for students:
Using Ale’s pattern, explore your own truism. You can use the text structure below or substitute different types of connections to illustrate your truism, such as a moment from history, the lyrics from a song, or a poem.

The 11-Minute Essay

Recognizing and Illustrating an Important Theme or Truism

Truism  Book connection  Movie connection  Personal experience  I wonder...
People's Perfections

Even though the best people may have flaws, it's their perfections you should concentrate on. The best people may have that one flaw that you always notice, and you can bother them about it and possibly lose them as a friend, or you can concentrate on their perfections and make a good friend.

In the book One Step Ahead, Detective Wallander knows that Kalle has some imperfections, but instead of bugging him about it he congratulates him for being such a good cop. Even though Wallander doesn't know it until Kalle is dead, Kalle considered Detective Wallander his best friend, and even though Wallander didn't think of Kalle in the same way, it meant a lot to him.

In the movie "Gone in Sixty Seconds," Memphis Raines is an ex-car thief. He gets back into stealing cars because his brother will be killed if he doesn't deliver all the cars he's supposed to. Memphis is willing to put his life on the line to help his brother, who put himself in this predicament. When people watch this movie they don't think of how bad a person Memphis is because he steals cars, they think, "Wow, this is one great guy willing to put his life on the line to deliver enough cars to save his brother, Kip."

Tristan Griffith is a really good friend of mine who I met in Ricardo, Texas. He sometimes took over a conversation and wrote really long essays that when read, would take up the entire class. He also was one of the most kind and determined people I have ever met. I have never forgotten the time when we had a football game and he showed up to play even though he had crushed his toe by dropping a steel tractor part on it. I think I was just about the only other person apart from his family who knew about this because he never once complained. The day before the game he shoved that toe, which was about half the size of his entire foot, inside his cleats and was our starting runner-back. He is just one of those people who you are never bored around, even in some of the most boring conditions, because he finds ways to have fun and make your time worthwhile.

I have always wondered why some people seem to have an urge to find someone's imperfections, and not their perfections. The world would be a much better place if people actually tried to make people feel good about themselves.
For writing an 11-Minute Essay

1. Go to: bernabeiwritings.tools.blogspot.com

2. Download: 89 Visual Prompts (in the links)

3. Choose one

4. Show it to students on a screen or on paper

5. Follow the directions for the 11-Minute Essay (in The Story of My Thinking) (also see in Lesson 56 of Fun-Size Academic Writing)
Write a Kernel essay

Write a short story using the structure here.

Share.

There are 2 examples included.

9 days before...
A Completely Made-Up Story

Character doing something, a problem arises, unsuccessful attempts to solve problem, how the character solves the problem.

Kernel

1. Tony Parker steals the ball and dives for a hook shot.

2. All of a sudden, LeBron James clotheslines Tony's neck and yanks him to the hard, wooden floor.

3. Before Tony, Tony tried to avoid LeBron by turning left then right, jiving the backdoor of the poop pot.

4. Just as James' arm come swinging over, Parker threw the winning 2-point shot.

Sam's Dilemma (another example of a kernel short story).

Sam looked over, and to his dismay, found the toilet paper roll exhausted. Beginning to sweat, he searched frantically all about him. He reached out, straining, to the cabinet under the sink, but his arms were too short. Sam left defeated, missing a sock.

Joseph Thiemeyer
Find the Kernel essays.

Read a short story. Find the 4 parts of the short story structure.

There are enough for several class periods.

8 days before...
Late at night, in a mystic tropical rainforest, a boa lurks under the dense, evergreen plants. The snake, or more specifically, the red tail boa constrictor, searches through it’s habitat for a meal. Though, all creatures hide from the deadly animal, in fear of being eaten alive. The boa slithers through any hole it sees that looks like it may contain a solution to it’s problem. At last, it spots a possible answer. The snake draws back it’s long, muscular body, then strikes. After the fumbling and confusion, the read tail boa realizes, it just attacked a twig. In disappointment, the snake heads to a lonely spot. Giving up, it falls asleep.

About 3 hours later, the snake wakes up to find a forest mouse snoozing on a leaf, only a few feet away. The boa is starving, it is determined to catch this mouse. The snake goes for it.

Right then, the mouse wakes up, just to die. The boa constrictor uses it’s powerful coils to squeeze his prey to a point of writhing agony and eventually, to death by suffocation. The cycle of nature continues with a life-time’s worth of more challenging adventures ahead for the snake.

192 words

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192 words

Find the 4 story structure parts.

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As the soft mist reached up out of the water to caress his face, Charlie closed his eyes and took a moment to enjoy he calmness and peace of the river. He and his two best friends, Sam and Cody, had been slowly drifting for over an hour without encountering any rapids. “Something isn’t right ... The water shouldn’t be this till,” Charlie thought to himself.

Suddenly the roar of the upcoming rapids became audible and the churning of the water below threatened to swallow any intruder alive. Sam hurriedly crawled to the edge of the raft to untie his oars, while Cody began to tighten his life jacket. Charlie stood in the center of the raft, squinting in the bright sunlight to see what was ahead. At the sight of the rushing water that lay before them, Charlie decided the river was much like his last girlfriend, psychotic and bi-polar.

Charlie’s thoughts were interrupted by Sam and Cody’s cries for assistance. Neither man had the strength to row the raft against the waves, which were pushing the raft straight towards the drop-off! Charlie sprang up and grabbed his oar’s to try and direct the raft the opposite way. Despite their efforts, the crashing waves continually fought them, always taking the upper hand. As the front end of the boat began to tilt towards the drop-off, Charlie grabbed a rope off of the floor of the raft, swung it, and threw it out towards the middle of the river. To his surprise, the rope reached out to exactly the spot he had been aiming for, a hug boulder. Now, with an anchor to hold them steady, the three guys pulled against the rapids, and eventually made it back to the calm water. They were alive and safe! Later on, Sam realized he had read the map wrong, and apologized. But what an adventure!

313 words

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313 words

Find the 4 story structure parts.

This paper received a combined score of 8 on the 2012 English I STAAR.
“This is the first day of our treacherous hike to the top,” the three of us repeated time and time again. Our team consists of three men. Sean Turner, a slim but strong guy, that has a never say never kind of attitude. Cory Osbourne, an extremely fit man hat sticks to his word no matter what. And me, just an adrenaline junky that loves the thrill of cheating death. I was hoping that I could cheat death just one last time before I hung up the towel and “called it quits.” We decided that we would start our ruthless journey to the top at daybreak. Our target was bass camp one. The first of three camps before we went for the tip of this cruel mountain. About three miles up we spotted the orange flag that marked our first destination. We stumbled into our bright orange tent and were feeling the toll of our journey. It was as if there was no oxygen in the air and we were being weighted down by bricks. The next morning we made a pact “We won’t stop till hell freezes over.” Then we charged the mountain like soldiers under fire.

Little did we know, we charged straight into the middle of a blizzard. So, we made the best barrier we could out of snow and endured there for the night. The wind was howling as if calling for backup to try and remove us from the mountain. We were unwelcomed guests and Everest wanted us gone. But the blizzard cleared and we moved on.

Then we faced our biggest challenge yet. A seemingly endless wall of ice. We pulled out our picks and began to climb. About half way up the ice beneath us began to crack. Before I could warn anybody we were freefalling with boulders of ice chasing us like heat-seeking missiles.

At that moment hell did freeze over. Directly on top of us.

324 words
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324 words
Ironman: a man having great physical strength and endurance.

Kristy and Carla Mayfield, the twin cycling duo of 32 years had been aiming for the title of Ironman since the day their ears learned of it. They were planets revolving around the thought of such a challenge. 1 mile swim, 112 mile cycle and a marathon to go on top was like a sweet layer cake to the sisters. The most intriguing part about the race was the adventure to get there.

“Efforts in training must double to get to Kona in October” Kristy said as the sisters pondered Kona, Hawaii, the place of the Ironman Championships.”

“Let’s try to get the win at the 70.3 race this week, that will get us invited,” Carla said excited. Team Mayfield had targeted 1st and 2nd places and weren’t to be denied.

Three days later, wetsuits and race attire ready at the racks, the Mayfields were ready to go. Anticipation built like a shaken up coke can waiting to explode. “Tick tick tick beep,” in a flash calm waters exploded with turbulence. It was a battlefield of white caps made by man. It went so fast and yet so slow. The swim was done quickly by both sisters. To the rocks they both went to be blinded by sleek bikes reflecting the early sun. The ride was breath taking, the aroma of fresh pine, a sun rising on one side, fog on the other. Few people know about this sight in a race. The sisters raced for this majestic sight.

Mile by mile they zoomed on, not uttering a single word. Three hours was all it took to finish with a record time.

First and second victories claimed, and a news letter from Hawaii coming in very soon. Their first adventure ending, a new one beginning in Kona, Hawaii.

307 words ↑ Find the story structure parts.

This paper received a combined score of 8 on the 2012 English I STAAR.
Adding details: Color it up

Follow the directions for this activity.

Use what you learn to add details to a Kernel.

Use:

- Past tense for stories
- Present tense for expository

7 days before...
Color It Up

What Writers Do — Writers describe what they see, think, do, and say to tell a story. They describe what other characters do and say, too.

What This Writer Does — Elizabeth skillfully blends all four kinds of description in this piece, leaving readers with a perfectly clear picture of the whole memory.

Activity for your class:
1. Pass out copies and read the piece together with your class.
2. Have students highlight the following:
   - yellow—everything the narrator thought
   - blue—everything the narrator saw
   - pink—everything that anyone said
   - green—everything anyone did (not counting thinking or talking)
   (This highlighting can be done by groups, partners, or individuals.)
4. Create a class chart so that your class can remember the colors.

Challenge for students:
Highlight a story you’ve written, using the same color codes, just to see your own patterns. You may want to use the Memory Reflection text structure, below, to write a new personal narrative.

Use these colors to add details to your short story essay.

Memory Reflection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where you were</th>
<th>What happened first</th>
<th>What happened next</th>
<th>What happened last</th>
<th>What you thought</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Excerpt from Fun-Size Academic Writing for Serious Learning by Gretchen Bernabei and Judi Reimer. Copyright © 2013 by Corwin.
Fishing With Grandpa

I looked up with amazement as the sun’s light made its way through the trees along Holly Lake. I could’ve watched it all day, but I had a bet to win.

“10 dollars for who catches the most fish!” exclaimed my Grandpa. Still a little shaky on thought I nodded my head making sure my Grandpa knew the bet was on. I spun around toward my red, sparkly pole and started to set up.

It seemed it took ages to set up, but I knew it barely took 5 minutes. I studied the water while waiting for my Grandpa to be ready. Before I could realize it, I saw my Grandpa’s bobber in the water. Was he cheating, he was supposed to wait for me? I didn’t care I had to get my hook out in open water for a fair game. Even though anyone could win, I had a doubt that I will, my Grandpa’s a wonderful fisherman.

I looked back over at my Grandpa, he had already caught 2 fish, and I didn’t even have one. At that moment I knew I had to step up my game. I quickly powered walked over to the fish food and threw three hand fulls over by my hook. I glanced back at my Grandpa, he had only caught 1 more fish. I slowly sighed with relief, but my bobber was dunked under the surface. Once the fish was out of the water, I was stunned. It was marvalous, with red and blue scales that gleamed in the morning light. I don’t know but it somehow gave me hope. I then quickly sent the fish back into the lake. I caught one more fish. It wasn’t quite like the other one, but it still gave me hope. My Grandpa now had 4 and I still had 2, until the amazing hour I had been hoping for appeared. I caught 8 fish and my Grandpa caught 4, making the score 10 to 8.

More and more tugs came along, some were mine and some were my Grandpa’s. Questions were dancing in my head. “Did I win? Was it a tie?” I looked over at my Grandpa and started walking toward him. The wooden dock seemed to squeak a tune beneath me. I didn’t know who won but I had a feeling I was about to find out.

“I won?” I yelled in delight, I couldn’t believe what I was hearing. “Yep, the score was 17 to 14,” explained my Grandpa. As we walked through the forest I thought to myself “I can’t believe I won and I can’t believe how much hope you can find in the smallest thing, I can’t wait to come back here to once again challenge my Grandpa!”
Craft Lesson: Snapshots

Follow the directions to practice identifying then using Snapshots.

Have students try adding Snapshots to their Stories or essays.

6 days before...
Using Precise Language
to Create Visual Snapshots

What Writers Do — Writers use precise, carefully chosen words to create images in their readers’ minds. These images are like visual snapshots that paint a picture for the reader.

What This Writer Does — Elizabeth skillfully uses language to create stunning images that readers can easily visualize.

Activity for your class:
1. Distribute copies of Elizabeth’s piece and ask a volunteer to read it aloud.
2. Have students reread the part about the cliffs and highlight the snapshot from, “I saw some roots...” to “...directing her with my left hand.”
3. Invite students to draw a sketch of the narrator and her friend hanging on to the cliffs.
4. Count how many details in the sketch came from the text.

Challenge for students:
Write an action snapshot using enough detail that someone could draw a picture of the scene, using your description as a guide. Try writing snapshots and adding them to one of your own personal narratives.

Memory Reflection

Where you were
What happened first
What happened next
What happened last
What you thought
In the Cliffs

“EAT MY DUST, SUCKER!” I yelled over my shoulder so Robin could hear me. We darted past Bill’s house as if we were gazelles in a stampede.

But Robin just happened to interrupt my thoughts by yelling “NEVER!” Robin and I had started a race. There were strategies racing through my mind of how to get further than she will. Then it hit me! I should run and climb all the way up the cliffs. I had started to climb the cliffs by the time Robin caught up to me. Our little race had become an adventure.

“OW!” I whined. I pricked my finger on a thorn as sharp as a knife. I sucked on it until I got it to stop hurting, then I told Robin “My blood tastes salty.” We both couldn’t keep from laughing. We started climbing again, but this time with caution. Somehow we managed to get too high for comfort. Robin has always been afraid of heights. I wasn’t usually afraid, but this time I was. I looked down to find any footholds, but my eyes snapped shut. I made myself open them again and surveyed the cliff side. I saw some roots shaped like little hoops coming out of the cliff side. I tested my weight on each root. I managed to find a comfortable position holding onto 3 of the roots. My feet were on 2 of them, and I held on to the last one with my right hand. I stood up and helped Robin onto some of the other roots directing her with my left hand. We climbed the rest of the way down the same way we got up. We were back to safety. I looked up to where I was and trembled at the sight. Quickly I checked if Robin was okay. Then I checked if I was okay. It all added up to scraped hands and sore feet. I of course can’t forget a spanking from my mom. ★
Craft lesson: Pitch Forking

Follow the directions to teach the lesson and use it on the Samples.

* Use this technique on everything they write from now on.

5 days before...
Using Enumeratio to Add Detail

What Writers Do — Writers use a rhetorical device called *enumeratio*—or *enumeration*—in their writing to provide their readers with lists of key details. These lists create images, set moods, and serve to amplify and intensify a piece of text.

What This Writer Does — Keri uses *enumeratio*, masterfully crafting lists into her sentences to paint clear images for the reader. In this way, she packs a lot of detail into a small space.

Activity for your class:
1. Pass out copies of Keri's piece and read it out loud.
2. Together with the class, look at this sentence:

   "She washed my uniform nightly, took me to all my classes, coached me when I fought, helped me practice at home and always reminded me to brush my teeth before class."

   Ask: What makes this sentence powerful? (the list of specifics)
3. Explain to students that Keri is using a rhetorical device called *enumeratio* (e-nu-me-RA-tio), listing or detailing the parts of something to amplify or make a point.
4. Ask students to rewrite that sentence, changing the specifics to a generalization. (Example: "She did so many things") What is the difference in the impact of the sentence?
5. Have students look at the last sentence of Keri’s piece and rewrite it in the same way. Compare the sentences. Discuss students’ responses to them.

Challenge for students:
Choose a piece of writing that you are working on. Try taking one or two of your own sentences and seeing if you can use *enumeratio* to break it out into a list of specifics.

Memory Reflection

| Where you were | What happened first | What happened next | What happened last | What you thought |

Fun-Size Academic Writing for SERIOUS LEARNING
Excerpt from Fun-Size Academic Writing for Serious Learning by Gretchen Bernabei and Jodi Reimer. Copyright © 2013 by Corwin.
Using Enumeratio to Add Detail

“Yeah, but she’s a nerd.”

As a young girl I wasn’t your popular, athletic, brunette goddess. I was the blonde-haired girl who always got straight “A’s” and made friends with all the teachers. I wore my school uniform and couldn’t shoot a basketball into the hoop even if my life depended on it. When I finally did find a sport that captured my interest, there wasn’t a team for my age group that I could join. Therefore, my mom enrolled me in a month’s worth of Tae Kwon Do classes.

I instantly fell in love with the sport. My addiction to doing better drove me to become a member of the Jr. Olympic team. I medaled at all my tournaments; I’m the most proud of getting second place at Nationals for Jr. Olympics. Many people questioned why I never gave up. By taking a look at my planner you could tell how devoted I was: five or six days a week I was at the studio practicing.

My alarm sounded off, “Beep. Beep. Beep,” and I rolled over, very sore from the previous day’s work out. “5:30 a.m., right on time,” I would say every Sunday morning as I pressed the snooze button. When I finally forced myself out of bed, I got dressed and went to practice. “There are three thirds to winning; you, your coach, and your support team. If you’re missing any of those, there is absolutely no way you can walk or limp out of a ring with a gold medal around your neck,” Coach Levell said to us every weekend.

After 8th grade we moved from California to Texas. I had to start from ground zero. Everything was new and I had no friends. I started Tae Kwon Do at a new studio. This was supposed to be the year I tested for my black belt, a goal I had had for four years. However, I wasn’t nearly as motivated or dedicated. I skipped practices, my endurance slowly began to weaken and I became more active in other things.

But encouragement isn’t only about physically rooting someone on; it’s also about knowing someone deep down and helping them in any way so that they get to where they need to be. My lack of enthusiasm did not go unnoticed; my mom was right there. My mom was my savior, my provider, my best friend and my number one cheerleader. She knew how badly I’ve always wanted my black belt and she encouraged me to get it. She washed my uniform nightly, took me to all my classes, coached me when I fought, helped me practice at home and always reminded me to brush my teeth before class. When there was no one left for me to turn to, my mom was already standing there and helping me get back up and kicking again.

When the test finally came and I waited to be called up to perform, I got nervous. I had sweaty palms, a panicking quickness in my breath and I only heard, “Stop now, you can’t do it,” thundering to the pulsating roar in my head. The only thing that kept my focus was knowing that someone who believed in me was back there cheering and mentally chanting, “Impossible and can’t are not words in our dictionary.” After seven hours had passed, I walked out of the studio as a black belt. I had “passed with flying colors.” But people don’t win in Tae Kwon Do out of sheer luck, the gold medalists are the ones with the most skill and the best support team.

In my life my mom played many roles, but none compare to her role as my #1 cheerleader. Encouragement from others is like a crutch from the heart to aid someone in desperation. Because of my crutch, I’m a black belt, a junior Olympian, a straight “A” student, and a very thankful human. ☉
Music has always been a large part of cultures around the world. In 1996, the release of the MP3 player revolutionized the way the world listens to music. This bound in technology wasn’t limited to music. Computers and other electronic systems were also advancing. Today, all this technology has us Americans spoiled, and it all boils down to this. The people of the 21st century are attached to the new technology of this age.

In the 1800’s, technology was very limited. People crossed the United States in wagons, picked cotton with their hands and used their sweat and tears to make a living. Now fast forward to the year 2012. We cross the United States in planes or station wagons, machines pick the cotton for us, and many workers make their living by sitting in a cubicle all day. At our homes we have automatic A/C and heat. We have electric stoves and ovens. Our phones can call, text, surf the web, take pictures and many other things. This, in part, is thanks to a man named Steve Jobs. He revolutionized the technology of cell phones by inventing the iPhone. The iPhone can literally do thousands of things. You can check your stocks, check the weather, and play games. You can hook it up to your car and listen to music or talk on the phone. In some cars now, you can remote start and some cars can even parallel park themselves. Some think all this technology is dumbing down society. Others disagree. However, ask yourself this, who is right?

The people of the 21st century are attached to the new technology of this age. People like Steve Jobs have revolutionized the industry. So whether this technology is good or bad, the ideas are becoming greater, and the possibilities are endless.

302 words
Music has always been a large part of cultures around the world. In 1996, the release of the MP3 player revolutionized the way the world listens to music. This bound in technology wasn’t limited to music. Computers and other electronic systems were also advancing. Today, all this technology has us Americans spoiled, and it all boils down to this. The people of the 21st century are attached to the new technology of this age.

In the 1800’s, technology was very limited. People crossed the United States in wagons, picked cotton with their hands and used their sweat and tears to make a living. Now fast forward to the year 2012. We cross the United States in planes or station wagons, machines pick the cotton for us, and many workers make their living by sitting in a cubicle all day. At our homes we have automatic A/C and heat. We have electric stoves and ovens. Our phones can call, text, surf the web, take pictures and many other things. This, in part, is thanks to a man named Steve Jobs. He revolutionized the technology of cell phones by inventing the iPhone. The iPhone can literally do thousands of things. You can check your stocks, check the weather, and play games. You can hook it up to your car and listen to music or talk on the phone. In some cars now, you can remote start and some cars can even parallel park themselves. Some think all this technology is dumbing down society. Others disagree. However, ask yourself this, who is right?

The people of the 21st century are attached to the new technology of this age. People like Steve Jobs have revolutionized the industry. So whether this technology is good or bad, the ideas are becoming greater, and the possibilities are endless.

302 words

Find the pitchforking in this essay.

This paper received a combined score of 8 on the 2012 English I STAAR.
Technology is defined as the use of mechanical arts. Most people would define technology as what their lives revolve around. Cell phones, laptops, and iPods are what most people spend their free time on these days. Portable electronic devices have changed the way people view music, entertainment, and their fellow humans.

For example, the views on music have been warped. No one sees it as a privilege to listen to music anymore. We can just reach right into our pockets and choose from hundreds or even thousands of songs to listen to. In contrast, people in the 50's or 60's would have to go to a concert, ice cream shop, or bar to hear some of their favorite artists. They viewed it as a privilege to do that, while many of us today would complain about having to go somewhere public to listen to music.

Also, these portable devices are affecting people's relationships with other people. While many are spending more and more time on their electronic devices, their relationships with others are becoming purely electronic. We text each other instead of talking face to face. We play against each other on games over the internet instead of getting out a board game from the closet. Relationships aren't as deep and personal as they used to be.

All in all, technology has changed almost everything in our lives, from music, to entertainment, and even our relationships. With all of this new technology, we are slowly but surely losing our connections to others. Someday, those connections will disappear completely.

258 words

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All in all, technology has changed almost everything in our lives, from music to entertainment, and even our relationships. With all of this new technology, we are slowly but surely losing our connections to others. Someday, those connections will disappear completely.
Every day, you hear the electric buzz of your cellphone, the sonorous ringing of your alarm clock, and even the constant honking of cars. These sounds could make anyone from the 1700’s and even the 1800’s eyes bulge. You may be falsely accused of being a wizard, believe it or not. Today, technology is a part of life. It has changed our world greatly. Where would we be without the light bulb or air conditioning?

One invention that has modernized our planet exceedingly is the microwave. It is useful when you’re late for work, have cold leftovers, or your soup just is not hot enough.

If you don’t have time to make the full pancake, sausage and fresh orange juice breakfast, grab a Poptart, stick it in the microwave for ten seconds and get out the door. Are you craving that pizza from last night? The microwave is almost pleading for you to punch in those numbers. You also need to defrost your chicken sometimes, and the microwave is the fastest option for your hungry, rambunctious kids. Plus, how could movie night exist without your hot and ready popcorn?

Without the microwave, we would have to wait desperately for minutes, even hours, for our food to be prepared. Now, everything should be made in a microwave. It has made a big impact on our lives. Instead of skipping breakfast, you can have a waffle or two ready in no time.

240 words

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240 words
Find the Kernel essays (expository)

* There are enough here for several class periods.

Read an essay.
Break it into chunks.
Summarize the chunks.
Read the summary sentences (the Kernel essay).
Use the same structure to try a Kernel essay with a different topic.

4 days before...
Technology can be wonderful. It can fill the air with powerful music, or connect people around the globe. But, it can also be a terrible burden. Private matters can be made public, hard work can be lost or stolen. Or it could become a vacuum. Taking everything from someone, and ruling their life.

One example of modern technology with pros and cons is the Bathosphere gaming system. Some pros of this advanced technology are that the player is usually standing, moving their body to manipulate an avatar. This is, by far, better than just sitting with a controller. Another positive attribute is the system puts the game “inside” the gaming world, as though if were real. This allows for a much more satisfying and enjoyable experience. Now for the cons.

While this system is very unique, concerns about health, physically and mentally, are a prominent issue. Because of the extreme immersement and closeness to the game, developers are concerned that the system is too addictive for private homes. For instance, someone could be so addicted, they allow themselves to go hungry and thirsty. Or, someone could get confused about which is the reality; the game or life.

This technology is developed; and extremely expensive, but the risks of such technology causes much debate about releasing it to the general public.

221 words
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This paper received a combined score of 8 on the 2012 English I STAAR.
Technology, an addiction to the minds of man-kind, rotting us from the outside, in. Let’s focus on a specific piece of technology that has influenced people in many ways, the television. Television has had positive trends on people, and negative trends on people, but TV is more of a negative product than a positive product.

For instance, television restrains children from going outside and being active. Although TV is a great source for entertainment, it’s also a negative trend-setter. Television has been around long enough for people to realize what a simple television show is capable of doing to someone’s life. People’s personalities depend on what they pay attention to most, so if someone watches a show about war all the time, then they will more than likely become a violent person. Mankind is a puppet, and television is the puppet master.

Television is used by eighty percent of Americans for at least an hour every day. Now, you’re probably thinking about how much you watch TV. Well, that’s normal. Since people’s lives are practically controlled by television, people should put a limit as to what kind of shows are on television. Television, over the years, has become a dominant role in an everyday human life. Did you know that TV is the cause of roughly fifteen percent of teen suicide? This question brings up another point, dramatic suicides. This is where somebody on a TV show commits suicide for the viewers entertainment. Although it’s not real, it influences people to kill themselves because it seemed so much better on TV.

People need to know the true consequences of television, because millions and millions of people are on their way to their own self-destruction, physically and mentally. Television is an addiction to the minds of mankind, rotting us from the outside, in. TV is a negative contribution to people’s lives across the globe and needs to change.

317 words
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In the new version of the movie *Footloose*, Reverend Moore discusses progress. “We have computers in our pockets, telephones in our automobiles, and money on a plastic card,” he says. Technology is most definitely improving, and I think the invention of cell phones has positive and negative effects on people’s lives.

Most companies and jobs, that use computers, often let their employees use their phones for sending emails, research, or any other kind of work that could be done on a computer. Adults are on the cell phones a lot, but the age group impacted the most by the invention of cell phones is teenagers.

Teenagers are on their phones a tremendous amount of their time. Especially teens with iPhones. iPhones are cable of browsing the internet, holding music, games, and movies, and they allow you to call and text. Teenagers and even some younger children are so hooked on their phones that they will more than likely text a person more than they actually talk to them.

I think the cell phone has had a positive and negative impact on people’s lives. They are great for catching up with family, listening to music, and completing work tasks, but we can’t let generations to come be so hooked on these devices that they lose who they are when the battery dies.

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221 words
Technology has a very tight grip on society these days. Everywhere you go you see people on their cell phone or computers, but one technological device has a tighter grip than the others. That device is the Apple iPhone.

The iPhone is very useful in contacting friends or family that live across the country. Used to you would have to call from your house or send a letter, but with the iPhone, you can call a friend in Boston from Los Angeles, or your friend in Germany from Canada.

It’s also great as a boredom reliever. If you’re waiting for someone or something like an air plane, you’ll be able to listen to your favorite songs if it’s something longer like a road trip, you’ll be able to watch Glory or the Patriot.

It’s also great as a study device. You can easily look up words meanings for your quiz. You can also read up on the chapter you missed when you were sick. You can even be able to study algebra since the iPhone can connect to the internet.

As you can see, the iPhone has had a positive impact on people. You can communicate with people, relieve your boredom, and even study for your worst subject. I can’t think of one piece of technology that’s had a larger effect, positive effect mind you, than the Apple iPhone.

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229 words

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Craft lesson: Renaming

Follow the directions in this lesson.

3 days before...
Naming and Renaming

**What Writers Do** — Writers sometimes avoid repeating a key word in a piece by using alternatives to that word—often more descriptive, intriguing substitutes.

**What This Writer Does** — Savannah expertly renames her Barbie doll in each description of her favorite companion, adding voice, humor, and sparkle to her writing.

**Activity for your class:**
1. Pass out copies and read this piece together with the class.
2. Ask students to look for the Barbie references and highlight them as you scan through it together. (Example: Miss Prissy Princess, bodacious Barbie, my little plastic princess, miss know-it-all, the smart alick, my crosseyed plastic figure, my rinkley melted toy)
3. List the examples on a chart. Ask students to think about using alternatives to a key word like Savannah did. What do these alternative words add to the piece? How do we do the same thing in real life with nicknames?

**Challenge for students:**
Revisit one of your pieces and find one key word you repeated. Brainstorm a list of alternative words to substitute for that key word and try substituting the alternatives. Read the results aloud to see if you like the changes.

**Do this in an expository essay or kernel you have written**

---

**Traditional 5-Paragraph Essay**

- Opinion because of A, B, C
- How I know A
- How I know B
- How I know C
- Restate opinion
Barbie

What is tan, made of plastic, and has gorgeous blond hair? My favorite possession…Miss Prissy Princess (barbie)! I adore my bodacious barbie because: you can talk to her, dress her up, or you can take her wherever you dream to go! I love barbie!

First of all, I love to talk to my little plastic princess because she always listens to me! One time I think barbie was so interested in my story she didn’t blink, she just sat there! I even remember that her eyes were a little crossed! She was in a tie-died shirt and a gingham skirt! Every day as I walk home from a long humid day at Lincoln Park Elementary I would do my math homework and miss know-it-all or the smart alick would help with home work! Even though she didn’t talk it was like she sent me these strange messages in my mind like, “bX = 9 the answer is 3 x 3 = 9!” she would bellow. I love my crossed-eyed plastic figure!

In addition, I like to dress barbie up! For example I dressed my very first barbie in a plaid dress, striped florescent pink and jet black striped stockings, and a checkered hat! (Tip: The reason Barbie is rinkely is because my little pint-sized sister Miss Burger Picker got into Mom’s stuff and blowdried her and she melted like a candle!) My favorite place to dress her up in is in my tree house. I like to bring a bucket of hot water in my tree house and lay barbie in it with her flamboyant bathing suit on! Then I wrap her in a gargantuan Oak leaf to pretend it’s a towel. I love my rinkely melted toy!

Last but not least, I like to bring barbie everywhere I go! One time I brought barbie to school and as I was riding the yellow school bus home I rolled down the window. The next thing I know she flew out my backpack and out the window! She swiftly landed on the road with a crash! Then a plum purple Mustang ran her over and her head fell off! The next day me and mom went thrifting and found another doll! I love dolls!

So now you know, that a barbie is my favorite possession! And Btw. (by the way!) don’t roll the window down if you have your barbie in your gingham b.p. (back pack!) by-by-barbie! Squash! Oh-no barbie your head! 😞
“This world of the new, will be the world of the old by tomorrow,” my father always said. Technology in the generations is a marvelous test, considering the creations of the computers and cell phones, technology can be very helpful.

Business people use varieties of equipment to assist them with work such as: computers, blackberries, Nooks & PDAs. This technology records dates, saves files, downloads books and documents, it’s almost as if it can do nearly everything. Some technology, as I write, is saving someone’s life! Hospitals and case workers use technology to perform delicate operations and moderate their patients.

Nooks, the pageless book in your hand, one of my own most helpful pieces of technology. Nooks save space, save time and are rather easy to handle. This lovely little hand-held computer is great for reading, checking emails, searching the web and entertaining games. Popular to many, it outdates books by a long shot, reading on a screen and pressing a button to turn the page is a couch potatoes paradise. The less complicated things they buyer goes through, the higher demand I say.

Nook’s popularity increased and the demand for printed books lowers, no one will want, less need even a book case. Nooks saves paper as well. How many times have paper been wasted on books left unfinished? Nooks have certainly changed today and can the future.

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229 words

Find Examples of re-naming

This paper received a combined score of 8 on the 2012 English I STAAR.
Devolved essay

A student (grade 7) wrote the score point 4 essay.

We devolved it to show the same essay as a 3, 2, 1.

Read the 4 aloud 1st. Discuss its best parts. Compare it to the others.

2 days before...
Women voting, children of different races all at one school, and the United States; we would be without all of this had it not of been for a little bit of rule breaking in history. There are some rules that need to be challenged.

In 1836, Texas declared independence from Mexico. Do you think some rules were broken in the process? Of course. Texas’ independence later lead to annexation of Texas to the United States in 1845. Before Texas was even thinking about that, though, the United States had its own rule-breaking escapade. They were at war with Great Britain. Okay, many events led up to that, but some tension was caused by some rules being broken on both sides. Does anyone remember the Boston Tea Party? I’m pretty sure that was not legal. The United States eventually declared independence on July 4, 1776. Where would the United States be today without some minor rule breaking?

Furthermore, in our not so distant history, where would we be without the Civil Rights movement and women getting the right to vote, I am not sure. The Civil Rights movement not only gave African Americans more freedom and rights, but also other ethnic groups. The women getting to vote movement is also no small matter because following women getting to vote came them getting to hold a seat in the house of representatives or the senate, being mayor, governor, etc. These were no small feats and rule breaking played a key role in both of them.

So yes, it is okay to break the rules, sometimes. There is no telling where our society or for that matter our country would be today without it.
Score point 3

Some rules need to be challenged. In our history, there is plenty of evidence of citizens challenging rules.

First, Texas declared independence from Mexico in 1836. Some rules were broken in the process. Texas’ independence later lead to annexation of Texas to the United States in 1845. Also, the United States had its own rule-breaking escapade. They were at war with Great Britain. Many events led up to that, but some tension was caused by some rules being broken on both sides. For example, rules were broken at the Boston Tea Party. The United States eventually declared independence on July 4, 1776. Where would the United States be today without some minor rule breaking?

Secondly, our country also broke rules to make social progress, both in the Civil Rights Movement and in women’s rights. The Civil Rights movement gave African Americans more freedom and rights. The women getting to vote movement led to women becoming leaders in government. There are women who have become mayors, senators, and governors. Rule breaking played a key role in both of these.

In conclusion, it is okay to break the rules, sometimes. There is no telling where our country would be today without it.
Score point 2

I think people should break rules if they aren’t fair. If people didn’t break rules, our world would never change. When rules aren’t fair, people should not follow them. Texas was part of Mexico and broke some rules to be separated. People broke rules at the Boston Tea Party. They thought the rules were not fair. So they didn’t follow them. That was good. People didn’t think the rules were fair about the way African American people were being treated and so we had civil rights come in. We have women’s rights too, which would not of happened if people only followed rules. Women would not be voting and being leaders. So decide if a rule is fair before you think about following it. The world will be better.
Score Point 1

Do you like rules? I think people should break rules if they aren’t fair. Rules are important and should be followed. Some rules aren’t good. If people didn’t break rules, our world would never change. When rules aren’t fair, people should not follow them. Texas was part of Mexico and broke some rules. At the Boston Tea Party. People were revolting. That was amazing. If some people didn’t think the rules were fair about the way African American people were being treated now we have civil rights. Women’s rights would not be voting and being leaders. The whole world is different now and people have to decide. Everyone is different and should be excepted for who they are.
Gallery Walk

Expository essays.

Print these essays and place them around the room.

Students should walk around and read them. Discuss what they notice.

1 day before...
iPhone applications, known as “apps” have become an extremely influential technology. The programs that can be integrated into phones are so powerful and varied, they provide any computer geek with a large opportunity to become an entrepreneur. Though limited primarily to first world countries, these apps are doing a lot to shape the societies of these countries.

Included in apps are countless videogames that can be played anywhere you have your phone. Some of these games have already become icons in the videogame industry. Creating a connection between videogames and phones. This has caused a remarkable decline in hand-held videogame consoles, and probably will lead to the “death” of the technology.

Aside from “killing” certain videogames, iPhone apps are diminishing the value of certain services. The internet made newspapers look ancient, and using the internet on your phone makes computers look medieval. Now you can expect what the weather will be like using an iPhone as opposed to the TV, radio, or a computer.

Countless apps have been made recently by children with a gift for technology, bathing them in money. If anything, apps have shifted a large part of the business world’s attention towards themselves. Apps have redefined what an entrepreneur can be, and what he should look like. You can hardly find a businessman without a super computer in his hands these days. Not to mention the sixteen year olds who just made the latest app.

iPhone applications are an obvious milestone in communication technology. They are likely the predecessor the next evolution of the technology as well. Most of all, however, apps have become a tremendous aspect of culture in first world societies.

276 words

This paper received a combined score of 8 on the 2012 English I STAAR.
Throughout the existence of the Homosapian, there has been trillions upon trillions of newly discovered things in the known universe. Modern day technology is to thank for this specifically. However, because no universe is perfect, some of the things, of which we as the human race have discovered, have greatly impacted our society in a negative way.

For example, many years ago, scientists discovered an ingenious way to make energy. Or, so they thought. They discovered that by burning coal one could harness and direct that energy to supply a mass population of people with electricity and heat for their homes.

However, it wasn’t until years later that other scientist had begun seeing changes within and throughout all of the environment as an effect of burning coal.

Consequently, because of the past actions of civilization, the world will never be able to return to a state in which humans have not disrupted the equilibrium balance of nature.

Although technology may have gotten the world to this point, it is ever possible that technology can reverse some of the negative effects that this world has encountered; making the world a better place.

191 words
Television has become more and more frequent in the average American household over the years and generations. It has become the cornerstone of many American lives. This is not exactly a very good thing. When people are glued to a television set for 24 hours a day they tend to gain weight and don’t practice good eating habits. This certain technology has had a negative effect on some people.

Television also includes video games. Video games appeal to younger kids that have “nothing” to do. Children are especially prone to obesity because their bodies are still developing. Television has taken kids away from the outdoors and has made them into “shut-ins”. With weak discipline and bad guidance children can easily become overweight and develop health problems.

Sports television appeals to mostly men. Today, sports is everywhere on TV. With 900 channels on television, men will never leave the television’s clutches because they also have weak discipline and bad guidance. This plague is passed down by generation after generation. Obesity rises in American every year and people wonder why.

Television is not a bad thing! Television is purely used for entertainment. It must be used in short does though! Instead of playing video games only, go outside for an hour and be active. Instead of watching baseball all day, go outside and play baseball. People shouldn’t feel like they have to be healthy, they should feel a desire to be healthy.

240 words
Technology, a method or process, etc for handling a specific technical problem. The problem was the raised prices of gas. The result, the invention of the electric car.

Just a couple years ago, the smart car was created. It ran on electricity rather than gasoline. This “smart” car revolutionized the electric car trend and helped change what we thought about this crazy idea. The car has many advantages that can effect someones life. First, the owner will no longer have to constantly fill up at the gas station. In fact, some people have been able to limit it to about once or twice a year! This has allowed them not to dish $60 every week just for gas. Now they have money or other things such as groceries or taxes.

Second, the car is very compact. This helps the car wiggle through urban traffic and parrel park very easily. For example owners of the electric car that live in New York City can parrel park and make it through the horrific traffic instead of doing something tiring such as walking or bicycling. These are just a few of the many impacts the car has made on their life.

Presently many big-name companies are making these electric cars. Chevy has made the Volt, which is completely dependent on electricity. Nissan has also put their spin on it with the Leaf. With these companies and many more making electric cars, the trend must be doing some good for the public. Maybe one day we will all have electric cars!

257 words
Technology is changing almost every day. One advancement in technology that has really impacted the life of most Americans is the smartphone. Today, most people have a smartphone and they make life easier.

On a smartphone, you can easily get on the internet. When using an iPhone, you can use the Safari internet browser, or you can use internet explorer on an Internet Explorer on an Android. Being able to get on the internet makes it easier to get on Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Instagram, and email, so you can stay in touch with friends. The internet is just one of the features that impact everyday life on a smartphone.

Smart phones also have auto-correct; auto-correct catches your mistakes and fixes them for you. That makes typing on a small keyboard much easier and more efficient. MP3 players are also included on smartphones. Music for the MP3 players can be bought on the phone for a hassle-free download. Smart phones also have thousands of applications for whatever you like to do whether it is play games, edit pictures, keep up with sports teams, and many more.

Android and iPhone smart phones have made a huge impact on the lives of people of almost all ages. They make our lives easier and faster. You will probably hear a lot of people say, “I can’t live without my iPhone” which proves that it has changed life for most people.
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241 words
Television has changed dramatically in the last few years. One major change has been the creation of the “DVR”. DVR is a box from a specific television network like Dish or Direct TV that lets people record television or have a guide to look and see what’s on television later or what’s on on another channel, something that has never been available before. DVR has had a positive effect on people’s time management of their distribution of time between family and social time and television and electronic time.

People in this day and time have an extreme “need” for electronics. They believe they cannot live without them and seem to forget about spending time with family or friends. The creation of the DVR has let people be able to have their quality time with truly important things and people without taking away their want for watching television. It has let people be more flexible and remember that they can watch their program later and spend time with the family now.

Another goal of every new electronic device is to make life easier; the DVR has met this goal as well. Guide is another device the DVR is capable of doing. Instead of someone having to flip through every channel to find something they would enjoy watching, they can hit the “guide” button on the remote and once they find a title they think is interesting, they can hit the “ok” or “enter” button and watch it. This aspect makes it easier for someone to find what they would like to watch quicker than having to scroll through every channel and possibly having to wait for a commercial to finish to see what’s on.

The DVR was a creation that was designed to make life easier. People can have peace of mind while they are talking to their family since they knew the television show they want to watch is recording for them at home. The DVR, is one of the few electronics that, has had positive impact on the American society today.

342 words

This paper received a combined score of 8 on the 2012 English I STAAR.
In light of modern technology, people have remembered more birthdays, more deadlines, and games more than back in the early 1900's. But the question is, where has the thought gone? The effort into buying a card or playing a board game has been outdated. Modern technology has effected us by taking the true meaning and thought out of everything.

Most of the world has Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus, or MySpace. These sites can remind you of birthdays or anniversaries, but now on birthdays one will get a few cards but a load of wall post most people won’t remember birthdays unless Facebook reminds them. The fact that technology reminded you give it less meaning.

Today most of America has a smartphone with games or apps. “Words with Friends” is a popular game like Scrabble. What every happened to those board games? In the 90's it was a treat if you got a new board game. Now it’s downloaded into your phone. Where’s the fun of thought in that?

Modern day technology has effected the world by taking out the fun, true meaning, and thoughtfulness that it used to be. Without this, we run on a charge. That without it, we’d be a dead battery, not working. Without it, the earth would be dark. Maybe one day the world will see how beautiful it is. They’ll enjoy life without photoshop. They’ll remember how social we all used to be.

238 words
The Wii has revolutionized gaming technology. Instead of having controllers with wires the Wii has wireless controllers that let your movement interact and control the game.

The Wii is also a great way to exercise because it is a stand up gaming system. Research shows that people who use playstations and other sit down controller systems are less healthy because they aren’t up and moving. The movement the Wii requires can keep your heart healthy and your brain strong.

When the Wii was introduced to the public in the 2000’s it was a huge hit. Not only did the Wii hit the charts running but also became the years most sold gaming product. Nintendo has been working on new features since its release. The Wii also offers wireless internet which lets you surf and browse the web. You can also purchase pre-paid gaming cards which lets you download games and widgets from the Nintendo Wii shop channel with a internet connection. Some Wii games offer a wireless interaction that lets you play games with people from all around the world!

How cool is it to be able to excersise and enjoy it? Parents choose Wii over other gaming systems because it is better for healthy playing instead of sitting and playing. Nintendo has made history.

215 words
Technology, a ten letter word that has changed the world we live in today.

From the moment you turn on your television you are using technology. But wait, what if the things on the screen can come to life? Well, now with three-D television things can.

Being able to go to a movie theater and watch a three-dimensional movie was fantastic. However, being able to watch three dimensional movies in your own house is astonishing. Who would of thought that you could have dinosaurs running right toward you or airplains flying straight at you in your own living room.

This is a great thing because with three-dimensional television we can see in details who an actual size T-rex would of looked like if it was still alive. I also think that with all the “poping out” our reflexes will become better. With this new technology we’re going to be able to see different parts of the world like if we were there. We get to experience new things. Our eyes get to see things that they’ve never seen before.

This type of technology has effected us in a good way. Did you ever think you were going to be able to see a T-Rex in your living room? I sure didn’t.

211 words
Some people curse technology, but others would exchange their lives for it. The “iPad,” a creation by the company Apple has many dis-advantages, but on the contrary many autistic children have difficulty in everyday routines. They need to be assisted with simple things we take for granted, like brushing your teeth.

But recently application has been soaring to the top of the charts. Did you know one in three kids are born with autism? The app is helping that 66% with everyday things. The app’s name is Normal is OverRated. The app starts you off on basic things, and gradually gets a little more complicated. You have a word bank and when you want to say something it’s at the touch of a button. It always provides something new to learn.

Study shows that the app has improved the lives of user for the better. These children can now tell their parents what they want with a click of a button.

These kids, they have a brain, and working toughts. The only reason people consider them “retarded” is because their exterior can not function properly. Although some doctors claim they are breaindead just by looking at them, you may never know.

The app is a dawn of a new age. That no matter how disadvantaged you may think you are, their is always hope. I believe this app on the iPad, is changing people’s lives. And will affect themselves and surroundings for the rest of their days.

247 words
Computers have changed dramatically over the years. At first it was thought that they would be used only by the rich and wouldn’t be very popular. But now almost every single person has at least one computer in their home because of their usefulness.

Computers make it possible for people all over the world to stay connected. You can send an email to someone in another part of the world and they will receive it much faster than if you had mailed it. You can also go on a social networking website like facebook or twitter where send or receive messages instantly.

Computers can also help you get work done faster. For example, if you need to do a presentation on a certain topic you can simply go on a search engine, like google or bing, type in whatever it is you need to find, click send and you’ll be directed to a list of websites that have information on your topic. Then after you’ve found enough information you can organize it into a powerpoint to present it.

Computers can also be used to buy or sell things. If you need to get rid of some stuff, for example, you can go on a website like ebay where you can auction almost anything. You can buy items for less than their store prices or sell things for more than you would at a garage sale or a pawn shop.

Computers have revolutionized our lives so much that they are almost as important to have as a car. They will most likely continue to improve and make our lives easier for years to come.

273 words
### Expository essay (idea)

**Generic Five Paragraph Essay Minus One**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Truisms about the topic</th>
<th>Part 1</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>Part 2</th>
<th>(see the choices below)</th>
<th>Restate the truisms about the topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Part 1 and 2:  
One feature/another feature or before/after or cause/effect or pick 2 impact: physical/environmental/financial/social/emotional or pick 2 illustrations: from a book/movie/history

- Write a kernel essay (one sentence per box in the structure) in present tense.
- For the opening sentence, use a three-in-one infoshot. Detail with compound predicates, items in a series, participial phrases, ba-da-bing sentences, and a rhetorical device or two (like anaphora, anadiplosis, scesis onomatoton, enumeratio), up to 26 lines.

### Persuasive essay

**Damaging (or Helping) the World**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Truisms (how x is bad)</th>
<th>One way it's bad (social impact)</th>
<th>Another way it's bad (intellectual impact)</th>
<th>Conclusion: another (shorter) way to put how bad it is</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

11th grade released student sample from the Assessment Conference page on TEA website

- Write a kernel essay (one sentence per box in the structure) in present tense, and some future tense.
- Detail with snapshots, infoshots, compound predicates, items in a series, participial phrases, ba-da-bing sentences, and a rhetorical device or two (like anaphora, anadiplosis, scesis onomatoton, enumeratio), up to 26 lines.