

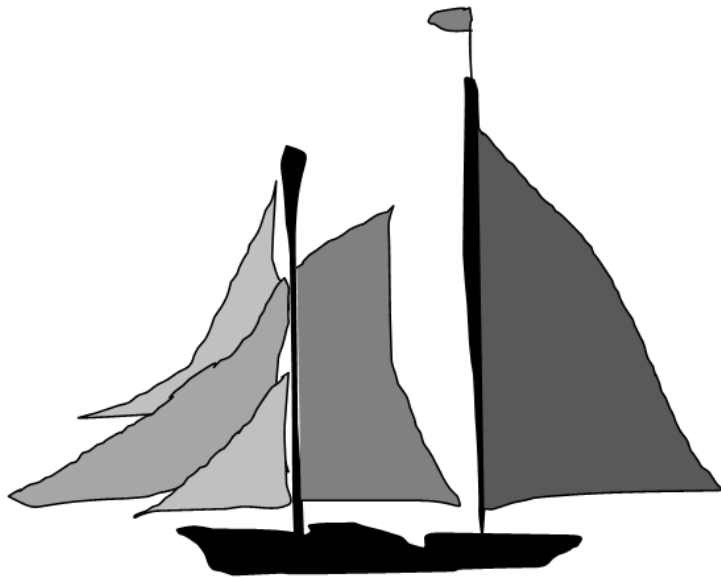


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Kernel Essay Text Structures

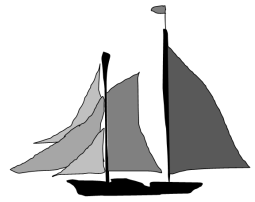
Compiled by Janette Wilcken (6th grade teacher, Maypearl, Texas)
from Gretchen Bernabei's kernel essay text structures.

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Alerting Reader to a Problem

Visual image
of problem

What will
happen in the
future

One plan

Attitude
change re-
quired

Imagine if...

Problem Awareness

Problem

Causes

Effects

Possible
solutions

All About an Event

How the
event started

What we eat
and why

One object
we use

Something
we read or
sing

Why I like it
so much

Character/culture clashes

Description of
problem
between two
parties

Example 1

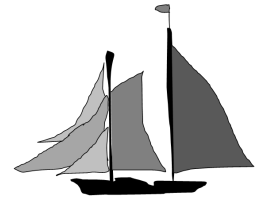
Example 2

Example 3

What we
learn from
this

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Curiosity: One thing you'd like to know about

I have some-
times 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 per-
son 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...

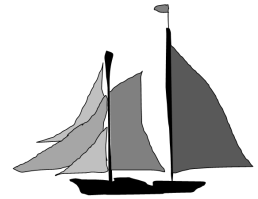
Last I figured
out...

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

Choice: Staying the same or changing

What would change mean?

Biggest disadvantage of change

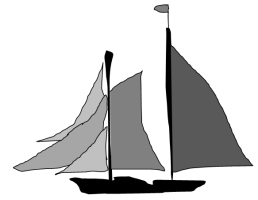
Biggest disadvantage of staying the same

How change might make it worse

What happens if you just don't decide

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Advocating for Something

Opinion
because of
A, B, C

How I know A

How I know B

How I know C

Restate
opinion

Syllogism

If this is true...

And this is true...

Then this must be
true...

Elimination or confirmation

I've never
been sure if

But I've
always
suspected/
thought

Because once
I experienced

Which made
me think that

And I finally
realized

Explanation of a term

Dictionary-
like definition

Your personal
definition

What feeling
you get from
it

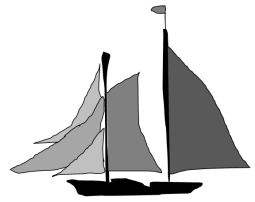
What others
make you
think

Example in
society today

Another
example
(optional)

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Development of a Friendship

My wrong
first
impression

Moment of
bonding

One moment
you taught
me an
important
lesson

Another
moment you
taught me an
important les-
son

Ways you've
become an
important
friend

Comparing Notes

Some people
think...

And other
people
think...

But I think...

What that
tells me

Drumming Up Support

Problem

Example/
details of
problem

Why we
should face it

What we
must do

Making a Claim About a Historical Event

Event

Why this
happened

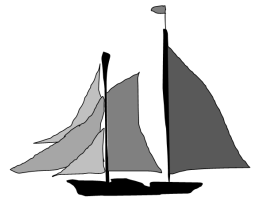
When it
happened

What people
thought then

What I think
now

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Making a request

My request

One way this
will help

Another way
this will help

Why now is
the right time

The question
for you to
answer...

Sales Pitch

One reason
you may
object to my
plan

My plan

What I will do
to prove you
wrong

How we will
celebrate if I
am right

Memory Reflection

Where you
were

What
happened
first

What
happened
next

What
happened last

What you
thought

Movie Self-Discussion

A movie I
watched

A history
connection

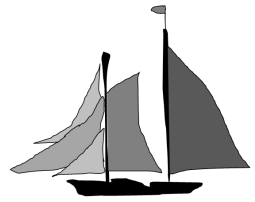
What the
movie was
really about

What the title
might mean

What I
wonder

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Opinion Piece About a Historical Figure

Why I chose
the person

One quality
he or she had

One moment
I saw that
quality

How that
affected the
people

My opinion
about the
person

Picture Proof

Description of
a picture of
an important
moment

This picture
makes me
realize that...

Truism

Problem/Solution

How I noticed
the problem

Effort that did
not work

How big the
problem is

A possible
solution

Another possible
solution
(optional)

Why I Admire Someone

Whom I
admire

Internal
characteristics
of that person

External skills
he or she has

The effect this
person has on
me

I wonder...