

Humorous Technique of Teaching Essay Development

Susan Olajoke Akinkurolere

Levels	<i>High beginner (can be adjusted up and down)</i>
Aims	<i>Increase awareness of paragraph types in essay writing Develop paragraphs for essay writing</i>
Class Time	<i>35–45 minutes</i>
Preparation Time	<i>15–20 minutes</i>
Resources	<i>Paper, pens, and markers Chart of family members (see Appendix) Cardboard Pins</i>



Mastering the composing process of an essay assists students in developing a full-length essay. Every ideal essay must have the basic components of paragraph types: introductory paragraph, transitional paragraph(s), and concluding paragraph. The types of paragraph that make up an essay could be likened and compared to family roles to amuse students and arouse their interest in essay development and writing. This activity helps students develop their essay writing through a cooperative writing process that is humorous.

PROCEDURE

1. Explain the three basic types of paragraph in an essay to the students.
2. Divide students into teams of five or six of mixed sex.
3. Bring each team to a table with chairs.
4. Write the topic to be developed on the board, and explain that each team will develop the essay topic as members of the same family.
5. Allow students on each team to appoint two parents. Other members of the team will be the children. The teacher can also assist in assigning roles.

6. The sitting arrangement should be in the order of Parent 1, Child 1, Child 2, Child 3, and Parent 2, depending on the number of students in a team. The students that are regarded as children should sit between the two parents. Hence, the sitting arrangement should be employed in explaining paragraph types' arrangement.
7. Fix stickers made from cardboard that indicate family positions to clothes to avoid confusion in the course of writing.
8. Draw students' attention to the chart on the board with different types of paragraph assigned to the parents and children (see Appendix).
9. The codes should be interpreted thus: Parent 1-I (introduction), Children-T1, T2, T3 (transitional paragraph 1, transitional paragraph 2, and transitional paragraph 3), and Parent 2-C (conclusion).
10. Each team should commence writing the essay in this way: The first parent writes the first paragraph and gives it to the first child, each child writes a transitional paragraph, and the last paragraph is completed by the second parent.
11. The essay is submitted to the teacher for assessment when each team finishes writing.

CAVEATS AND OPTIONS

1. The number of paragraphs you want students to develop will determine the number of students on a team.
2. You can give the same topic to all the teams.
3. The level of the students should determine topics that will be employed in the explanation and practice of essay development.
4. You could make the students practice another topic with different paragraph types from the initially assigned types in another class.
5. A family picture chart that demonstrates father and mother with children in between could be hung or drawn on the board.

APPENDIX: *Chart for a Team of Five Students*

1. Parent 1 (Introductory Paragraph)



2. Child 1 (Transitional Paragraph 1)



3. Child 2 (Transitional Paragraph 2)



4. Child 3 (Transitional Paragraph 3)



5. Parent 2 (Concluding Paragraph)