

Writing an Essay (Career Needs and Wants)

Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will identify the structure of a five paragraph essay.• Students will write a five paragraph essay about their career needs and wants.• Students will analyze their career needs and wants and how they impact their career decisions.	Time frame to Complete <p>2-3 hours</p> <p>The lesson can be done over one or two class periods. Five Paragraph Essay examples on day one. Career Needs and Wants essay on day two.</p>
Standard(s) Addressed in Lesson	Convey Ideas in Writing
Benchmark(s) Addressed in Lesson	W.4.3; W.4.4; W.4.5; W.4.11; W.4.12; W.4.19
Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Career Needs and Wants Activity• Scissors• Five Paragraph Essay Outline• Getting My GED sample essay	
Activities <p><u>Warm –up:</u> Quick write</p> <p>Describe someone you know who is either happy or unhappy in his/her career. Explain how you know this person is happy or unhappy. Discuss some things that make people happy. Relate this to having a career. The essay writing activity today will be about Career Needs and Wants. Help students define a career. A career can be defined as a way of living, an occupation, a profession. A career may be a series of jobs over time. A career may or may not involve salary. People want and need different things from their careers</p> <p><u>Step 1:</u> Pass out the Career Needs and Wants Activity</p> <p>Students cut apart the career needs and wants. They stack them with the most important on top and the least important on the bottom. Discuss their top choices. Have them share reasons why these things were important. What is on the bottom of their pile? Why are these items less important? The discussion will give them additional ideas and specific examples for their essay. Do they have additional career wants and needs that were not related to the categories on the handout?</p> <p><u>Step 2:</u> Review the five paragraph essay</p> <p>Use the handout “Five Paragraph Essay Outline” and the “Getting My GED” sample essay. As an alternative this pre-teaching could be done at an earlier time so students are ready to begin their essays after the activity.</p> <p><u>Step 3:</u> Students will write an essay about their career needs and wants</p> <p>A career can be defined as a way of living, an occupation, a profession. A career may or may not involve salary. People want and need different things from their careers. In your essay, identify your most important career needs and wants. Explain how and why these things are important to you.</p>	

Step 4: Help students set up their introductory paragraph

They may use prompts from the topic. They may choose to identify a specific career and relate their needs and wants to a career; however, they do not have to choose a specific career for this essay. Explain how the topics from the activity are broad categories and can be used as the subtopics for the paragraphs in the body of their essay. They will develop these subtopics with examples and details in the body of the essay.

Step 5: Have students complete their essays

Step 6: Ask them if this information is useful to them to make career decisions.

Why or why not? After writing about their career needs and wants did anyone change their mind about the most important things. Explain how writing can help us clarify our thinking.

Assessment/Evidence

Completed essay for students' portfolios

Adaptations for Beginning Students

Students can write one paragraph about their most important career needs and wants.

Adaptations for Advanced Students

Students can research a specific occupation and relate their career needs and wants to information about a specific occupation.

Career Needs and Wants

Think of the 10 career needs and wants in terms of their importance to you. Cut them apart and sort them into stack with the most important on top and the least important on the bottom. Write your top three career needs and wants below:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Money	Respect
Some occupations pay higher salaries than other occupations. Some occupations provide you with extra money beyond what you need to live on.	Some occupations provide prestige and respect. Some occupations are not well respected in our society today even though they provide necessary services in our communities.
Freedom	Stability
Some occupations let you work independently or let you choose to work flexible hours. Some occupations let you make choices about where you work.	Some occupations have little turn-over. They offer better job security than other occupations.
Variety	Leisure
Some occupations expose you to many different experiences and let you do many different things. You may have opportunities to meet different people and/or work in different locations.	Some occupations provide you with ample time for family and hobbies. They provide vacation times. They do not require overtime work. They do not require that you take work home to complete by a deadline.
Leadership	Service
Some occupations give you responsibility for others. They give you responsibilities for planning and making policies. They let you be in charge.	Some occupations help people and society in a very direct way.
Interest	Challenge
Some occupations let you do work that you find interesting and stimulating.	Some occupations repeatedly test your skills and abilities. They may present problems that can be challenging but rewarding to solve.
Social	Environment
Some people like to work around people. Some people like jobs where they work with the public. They want opportunities to meet and interact with people.	Some people like to work outside. Some people want a job close to family members. Some people want to work in a big city or small town. Some people want to work in a warm climate or near an ocean.

Five-Paragraph Essay Outline

Title

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. Introduction sentence
 - B. Restate your topic
 - C. Three subtopics to use to develop paragraphs 2, 3, and 4
- II. **Body**
 - A. Supporting details about topic #1
 - B. Supporting details about topic #2
 - C. Supporting details about topic #3
- III. **Conclusion**
 - A. First sentence summarizes your point
 - B. Restate topic
 - C. Restate three subtopics
 - D. Closing sentence

You are required to complete a five paragraph essay as part of your Language Arts GED test. The following is a brief summary that will help you understand what they are asking you to do.

The topic will be assigned to you. It will be a topic that you can relate to and write about, no topic will be assigned that will require specialized knowledge.

Your essay will have an opening paragraph. This is where you restate the topic given to you. You will need to give three examples to support the topic you are writing about. These examples will help you develop the subsequent paragraphs. You may also choose one example and give specific details in the body paragraphs about your example. It is easier to list three subtopics and write about them in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3, than it is to pick one sub topic and write three paragraphs on that one subtopic.

Example topic: Why do you want to get a GED?

Restating the subtopic: "I want to get my GED because it will..."

Three subtopics: get a better job, be an example to my children, prepare to go to college

All of the above will make your introduction paragraph.

*****It is very important you understand what it's being asked in the topic: compare/contrast, describe, cause/effect, etc. Look for these very important works as discussed in class.*****

Now you need three supporting paragraphs on the three examples you gave in the introduction paragraph.

- Second paragraph will explain how the GED will help you get a better job.
- Third paragraph will be about being an example to your children.
- Fourth paragraph is how getting a GED improves your chances of attending college

Your last paragraph will be your closing paragraph. In this paragraph you will restate your topic, restate your three examples, and summarize your essay.

<p>Introductory Paragraph</p> <p>General Topic Sentence: reasons to get GED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subtopic One: better job 2. Subtopic Two: example to the children 3. Subtopic Three: enter college <p>(Transition)</p>		
<p>1st Supporting Paragraph</p> <p>Restate Subtopic: better job</p> <p>Supporting Details: better pay, more spending power, buy a new car</p>	<p>2nd Supporting Paragraph</p> <p>Restate Subtopic: example for my children</p> <p>Supporting Details: inspire them to complete school, can help with homework, teach them value of education</p>	<p>3rd Supporting Paragraph</p> <p>Restate Subtopic: college</p> <p>Supporting Details: better career, income power will increase, professional growth potential</p>
<p>Closing or Summary Paragraph</p> <p>Restate your topic and subtopics, summarize.</p>		

Getting My GED

There are many reasons why I want to obtain my GED. The first reason for obtaining my GED is to help me secure a better job. It is very difficult to find a good paying job without a high school diploma. The second reason is my children. Getting my high school diploma will be an example to my children; they will learn how important it is to stay in school. And the third reason is college. I have always wanted to attend college. With a GED diploma my opportunities for a college degree and a better job will increase, not to mention becoming an example for my children.

In today's world you need a high school diploma in order to get a better job. Many companies will not even call for an interview if they see you do not possess a high school education. The opportunities for a better job will increase once you obtain a high school diploma.

Another reason for obtaining my diploma is my children. I want to be an example to them. I want to be able to help with their homework. In addition, by me obtaining a high school diploma, they will learn the value of an education.

I will also be an example to them if I can get into college. Not only will I expand my knowledge by learning but also my potential for an even better job and pay. I will also pave the way for them to attempt the same. A college degree opens many doors for a person looking for a job.

Going back to school and getting my high school diploma is very important to me. There are many reasons why I want to get my GED. I want a better job so I can better my life and the lives of my children. I also want to be an example to my children and help them with their own school years. College is very important and I want to set the example. Again, there are many reasons why I want to get my GED. I am determined to get my diploma and when I get it; my children and I will celebrate that moment together.

