Understanding Writing and Essay Language

Terms to Know

Picture this: Your teacher gave you a writing assignment, but you read it and understand nothing. First things first - find the key phrases!

Now, take those keywords you just highlighted and think about how they relate to the main question your instructor needs answered.

Once you figure out what your instructor is asking, then think about how to apply that to your assignment.

What To Do Next

Analyze
Look at the situation/prompt and determine what is happening and why

Determine
Look at the topic/prompt and make a clear decision about it

Discuss
Talk about the topic and any ideas surrounding it

Argue
Make a direct point and persuade your reader to agree with your position

Reflect
Connect your understanding of the topic back to your own experience

What Does That Look Like?

Prompt
Argue why smart phones are a benefit to today’s youth using examples.

Outline
Thesis: Smart phones benefit today’s youth in many ways, such as being portable, providing better access to internet, and allowing for more communication.

Example 1: Portable - easy to carry and can be used all the time
Example 2: Internet access - can be used to study, email teachers
Example 3: Communication - able to talk to friends from all across the world
Conclusion: Highlight each main point and solidify your argument

Highlight
Argue why smart phones are a benefit to today’s youth using examples

Connect
Benefits of a smart phone: easy to carry, access internet, talk to friends

Reading it and seeing it are two different things. Check out these examples to get a better understanding of writing and essay language.

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