1,000-WORD (FIVE-PARAGRAPH) DEFINITION or CLASSIFICATION ESSAY

Choose ONE of the following modes (not both) for your first 1,000-to-1,100-word, five-paragraph essay. For either mode, be sure that your essay focuses on a single main idea (clearly stated in the thesis). Narrow your topic so that you can cover it completely in 1,000 words. I encourage you to show me your outline with thesis statement or take it to the Academic Success Center (ASC) with these assignment instructions before you begin your draft.

DEFINITION TOPIC: Considering Paul Theroux’s “The Male Myth” (a.k.a. “Being a Man”), write an essay defining A SPECIFIC TYPE OF PERSON. You might define an adult, a student, a parent, an American, a patriot, a hero, a person of a particular race or religion, a woman, or a man (if your definition is different from Theroux’s). A good topic has a definition that is not obvious or that is different from what most people believe about the type, and the thesis statement should use a verb like “is” or “means” to join the subject (topic) to its definition. The body of the essay should explain three personal qualities that make someone that type of person.

CLASSIFICATION TOPIC: Considering Carolyn Foster Segal’s “The Dog Ate My Disk, and Other Tales of Woe,” write an essay explaining the TYPES OF A PARTICULAR GROUP OF PEOPLE. You might categorize students (if your categories are different from Segal’s), parents, men, women, heroes, patriots, racists, feminists, sexists, religious groups, or heroes. Be sure that your essay focuses on a single main purpose (types of one thing organized around a single principle, clearly stated in the thesis) and that your categories are parallel.

Your essay must contain an introduction paragraph that ends with the thesis statement. The essay must also include three body paragraphs providing specific evidence (like qualities, features, types, or examples) and details, and a concluding paragraph that returns to the idea of the thesis and provides a sense of closure. It must also include a quote from an expert library source with a citation and work-cited page in MLA style. (We will discuss these Sept. 14.)

Also, be sure to complete and submit all steps in the writing process:
1. brainstorming (bring to our next class, Sept. 5),
2. organizing/outline with thesis statement (complete before first draft, due Sept. 12),
3a. drafting (first draft by Sept. 12 on Canvas with one printout; also submit to a tutor),
4. revising (feedback from 2+ classmates on Sept. 12 and a SmarThinking or ASC tutor),
3b. drafting again (second draft by Sept. 19 on Canvas with TWO printouts), and
5. proofreading (feedback from at least two classmates on Sept. 19).

The final version of the essay is due on MyHCC / Canvas before class begins Sept. 26. FINAL ESSAYS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF YOU DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN AND SUBMIT ALL OF THE STEPS LISTED ABOVE (including brainstorming, outline, a full first draft, a small-group discussion with classmates, tutoring, a full second draft, and peer proofreading with classmates)! Before outlining on the back (step 2), you MUST do brainstorming (step 1) on a separate page.
SUGGESTED OUTLINE for 1,000-word DEFINITION or CLASSIFICATION ESSAY

Submit your outline (this form or any format you prefer, electronic or hard copy) with your final version of the essay. (You must also submit your brainstorming, rough drafts, and tutors’ comments.)

NOTE: Except for the thesis statement, the outline should be just ideas, not complete sentences.

INTRO “HOOK”:
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THESIS STATEMENT = NARROWED TOPIC + CONTROLLING IDEA (Definition uses “is” or “means.”)
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____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

PRIMARY POINT I (first quality or first category):
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____________________________________________________________________________
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SECONDARY DETAIL (evidence/example):
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
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PRIMARY POINT II (second quality/category):
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____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

SECONDARY DETAIL (evidence/example):
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

PRIMARY POINT III (third quality/category):
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

SECONDARY DETAIL (evidence/example):
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

(If absolutely necessary, add more points to outline on another sheet, but the essay must not go over 1,100 words.)

CONCLUSION:
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____________________________________________________________________________
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THESIS STATEMENT = NARROWED TOPIC + CONTROLLING IDEA (Definition uses “is” or “means.”)