

Explanatory Essay Model #1

Explanatory Topic: *An invention that has had an important impact on modern life*

“The Internet Age”

The light bulb. The automobile. Antibiotics. The television. There have been countless important inventions that have changed everyday life. It is difficult to argue that one of these inventions has been more meaningful than another, as they have all certainly contributed to the modern world in which we live. One invention that has had an especially important impact in recent years is the Internet. The Internet has changed the way people shop for what they need, find information, and communicate with others.

The Internet has revolutionized the modern concept of shopping. In fact, the need to leave your home to make a purchase has nearly been eliminated with the convenience of online shopping. Consumers can find sites that compare the features of various products to assist them in deciding on which item best meets their needs. When shoppers decide they are ready to make a purchase, they can do that, too. Just about anything that a person needs can be ordered online, rather than fighting crowds at the shopping malls. For instance, in some areas of the country, people can shop for groceries online and have them delivered to their home. There are even Web sites that will compare prices from one store to the next, to enhance the concept of “smart shopping” for consumers. The Internet has truly redefined shopping in our modern world.

Because of the Internet, there is also an amazing amount of information available at home, at work, and at school. For example, a simple medical question, like the difference between a sprain and a strain, can be answered on the Internet. Furthermore, many people use the Internet for uncovering information on a more recreational level. Sports fans that want to check on their favorite teams can go online for the latest scores and schedules, particularly when they might not have

access to a televised event. Even questions about science or social studies projects can be researched on the Internet, which provides students with an incredible tool for academic success. The invention of the Internet has opened countless doors for the recovery of information.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the Internet has enhanced the speed and convenience of communication with others. The use of e-mail and social networking websites, such as MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, and many others, has revolutionized the speed at which information can be shared. In the business world, communication across nations occurs instantaneously through e-mail or video conferencing, allowing transactions to happen without unnecessary wait time. Academically speaking, students can get basic homework tips online and communicate with classmates and teachers by e-mail or interactive discussion boards if they need help with an assignment. On a more personal level, people can share newsworthy events with the important people in their lives, no matter where they are, through the Internet. Many people “post” pictures of life events online, such as a family vacation or the birth of a new baby, to share with friends and family. The world of communication has undergone significant development with the creation and use of the Internet.

As the Internet continues to expand, people will be able to do more and more basic tasks online. The Internet will save people time and money, which seem increasingly important to people in a modern world. This has already been demonstrated by the way in which the Internet has impacted the worlds of shopping, research, and communication. All in all, the invention of the Internet will continue to change the way we live, play, and work.

Adapted from: Kemper, Dave, et al. *Write Source: A Book for Writing, Thinking, and Learning*. Wilmington: Great Source Education Group, 2005.

Explanatory Essay Model #2

Explanatory Topic: *A place that is special to you and why*

“Sammy’s: My Special Place”

If you ask friends to name a special place, they’ll probably say some fancy spot that costs a lot of money to visit. I’m different. One of my special places is a tiny little diner with peeling paint and small, crowded tables. For four years, I went to Sammy’s Place every day after school to wait for my mom and to see my grandma. For about five hours a week almost every week, Sammy’s Place was my place. This restaurant is special to me because of the amazing smells, the memories I made there with some of my favorite people, and the delicious menu items.

The first thing I’d notice on my way to Sammy’s was the smells. Sammy’s was known for its fried chicken, hamburgers, and pizza. It was also known for gyros, which is a kind of sandwich made with lamb. The smell of meat on the grill would always greet you first. Before even entering the door, your nose would tell you if lamb was roasting in the oven, or if peppers and onions were frying. On Fridays, the smells of garlic, sauce, and fresh pizza crust drifted onto the street from the pizza oven. These amazing smells are just some of the wonderful memories that take me back to Sammy’s Place.

Another reason Sammy’s is a place that I will always treasure is because of the memories I have made there over the years with some very special people. The best part of walking in was the people who greeted me. “Rico!” Sammy’s voice would sing out. She’d say it like a song, with a long *REEEE* and a short, short *ko*, the way she learned it from my grandma. Sammy was really Samantha Stavros, the owner and cook, and a huge smile would crack her face from cheek to cheek. Better than hearing Sammy, though, was seeing my grandma. Even if she was in the middle of waiting on a customer, her face would brighten, and she’d always come over and give me a hug. “How’s my little man?” she’d ask. As I hugged her back, her apron,

with its coffee spills or sauce stains, would tell me part of the story of her day. As long as it wasn't busy, my grandma would take her break then and sit with me. She'd ask me about my day and tell me about customers. I will always appreciate the time I spent with special people like Sammy and my grandma at the restaurant.

Lastly, the delicious menu items will always make Sammy's Place one of my personal favorites. Sammy was known for flipping some of our town's most famous burgers. Customers would always rave over the barbeque burger, especially. I'd almost always order my favorite, a gooey tuna melt, with cheese dripping out of the toasted bread. I loved the slightly salty taste of the tuna. I'd eat the sour pickle last and wash it all down with cold milk. Grandma's favorite was a short stack of pancakes. She'd eat them day or night, and swear they were better at Sammy's than anywhere else on Earth. As you can see, the variety of mouth-watering menu items make Sammy's Place a destination to fall in love with.

Now that I've grown older, I don't go to Sammy's Place much anymore. The strange thing is how much I miss the old diner, though. It was a place very special to me because of the wonderful smells, time spent with great people, and some of the most amazing food I can remember to this very day. Even all these years later, I can still see that counter and smell the cooking smells. Maybe that's because, for a few years, Sammy's Place was the next best thing to home.

Adapted from Rico Alvarez's student essay (Draper School).