

## Lesson Plan

### Essay Structure Group Lesson and Activity

<b>Activity Title:</b>	Essay Structure Group Lesson and Activity
<b>Goals/Objectives:</b>	1. To introduce students to correct essay structure using a five paragraph model.
	2. To provide students with a sample essay that models the structure.
	3. To provide students with the framework for writing essays effectively.
<b>Introduction to Lesson:</b>	Discuss the essay section on the GED test. Explain the grading system and how much it bears on the overall writing skills grade.
<b>Activities/Procedure for Activity:</b>	1. As a group, discuss parts of the essay: Introduction, Body, and Conclusion. Write each section on the board while students take notes.
	2. Provide a sample essay that demonstrates the essay structure.
	3. Give students a topic. As a group, discuss ideas related to the topic. Select three ideas to discuss in the essay.
	4. As a group, write the introductory paragraph. Call on individual students to provide input. Ask one student to write the introduction on the board (or teacher writes on the board). Ask students to write on their own paper.
	5. Separate students into three groups. Assign each group a body paragraph based on one of the ideas presented in the introductory paragraph. Allow 10-15 minutes.
	6. Ask each group to briefly present their paragraphs.
	7. As a group, write the conclusion paragraph.
<b>Functional Application:</b>	Students will learn the basis of writing an essay for the GED test.
<b>Materials/Texts/ Handouts:</b>	1. Sample essay handout (if desired)
	2. List of sample essay topics
<b>Evaluation:</b>	After participating in the activity, students should be able to independently write an essay.
<b>Follow Up Lessons:</b>	1. Separate students into pairs. Assign each pair an essay topic. Ask each pair to write a complete essay from start to finish.
	2. Pair students. Assign an essay to students to write independently. Have students exchange essays with pair partner and edit other student's essay. Have students provide suggestions for improvement. After editing, ask students to revise their own essays.

# Essay Structure Handout

An essay has three main parts:

## 1. First Part: Introduction

This part of the essay introduces the topic or states what the essay is about. The introduction also lists several general points that will be developed in the essay.

**Topic: Why is it important to have a high school diploma or GED?**

### Sample introduction:

*There are several reasons that it is important to have a high school diploma or GED. Those reasons include getting a good job after high school, going to college to get a career, and having a sense of accomplishment in life. Education helps people to achieve their long-term goals which is what makes it so important.*

## 2. Second Part: Body

The body of the essay usually has two-three paragraphs that fully develop the ideas presented in the introduction. Each paragraph explains a separate idea.

### Sample body paragraphs:

*The first reason that a diploma or GED is important is because it can help you get a job. You need a good job so you can save money for college. You also need a job so you can get a car which will help you get to college classes later on.*

*The next reason to get a diploma or GED is that it allows you to go on to college and earn a degree. This will help you not only get a job, but also a career that you love. Having a career will enable you to provide for your family, buy a house and car, and live a comfortable life.*

*The last reason that a diploma or GED is important is that it gives you a sense of accomplishment in life. It takes a lot of hard work, study, and commitment to earn a diploma or GED. For most people, it takes years to accomplish. After earning the diploma, there is a great relief to know that all of your hard work paid off. Because a goal was reached, you feel happy and proud of yourself. The diploma or GED gives you that sense of pride in reaching your goal that might give you the drive to set and achieve more goals in life.*

## 3. Third Part: Conclusion

The conclusion summarizes the essay and brings it to a close.

### Sample conclusion:

*In conclusion, education is very important in life. A high school diploma or GED can help you achieve goals throughout your lifetime such as earning a college degree, building a career, and starting a family. Most importantly, education will make you proud of yourself, which will help give you the confidence to reach other goals you set.*

## Essay Topics:

How would you measure success?

If you could wish for a talent or skill, what would it be? Why?

If you don't take care of yourself, no one else will. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain why.

What job would you like to have? Explain why.

Many things change in life. How do you think things in life change? Give examples.

Every community needs improvement in some way. In your community, what would you do to make it better? Give examples.

Everyone has had a bad day. What is the worst day you've ever had? How could you have changed it?

If you could volunteer any of your skills or a trade, what would it be?

Write about three differences between old and young people. Give examples.

Everyone has had an accomplishment, no matter how big or small. Give example of your accomplishments outside of school. How did you achieve them?

Many sport activities are expensive. Write an essay about a sport that is not expensive.

Some people live in urban areas and some live in rural areas. Where would you prefer to live? Explain why.

Would you prefer to be an only child or to have siblings? Explain why.

Discuss one invention that has had an impact on your life.

Discuss the first responsibility that you undertook in life.

What movie, television character, or book character has influenced your life?