

# Things Learned in English

## Paragraph Assignment



**Thinking:** peruse your memories about the types of activities, lessons, discussions, antics, your teacher, homework, class work, group work, projects, writing, grammar, vocabulary, poetry, short stories, other readings, presentations, etc. that we have worked on over this year. What kinds of situations or activities helped you learn something?

You may use humor, something personal or academic, or anything about the class and how it works/is run. However, just don't be simple like "I learned how to mark a scantron."

**Directions:** Now write a paragraph that discusses three things you have learned this year in your Language Arts class.

**Remember to follow the paragraph format, using identifiers, transitions, TS/PT/EX/CS formulas. Use the example paragraph that follows and your Writing Packets, especially pages 54-56, 58-60, and 66 (the Paragraph Check List)**

Use the space below to list some things you can easily talk about in this paragraph.

### This Sponge Absorbs the Power of Knowledge

(TS) From the numerous concepts I have learned in English, there are three that stand out most of all. (1<sup>st</sup> Point) First, I have discovered the way I think and what ideas are in my mind. (Ex.) In English class, we were doing a paragraph assignment about the many ways that people think, called Multiple Intelligences, and trying to find out what each of our dominant intelligences were. By completing a written evaluation asking about what I enjoy doing, value, and frequently take part in, I found that my primary intelligence is naturalistic. I believe that this is a true assessment because I am extremely concerned about the pollution of the environment and want to find an occupation in preventing it. I hope to become an environmentalist and establish organizations that work to pick up litter and find innovative ways to keep the earth, air, and water clean. (2<sup>nd</sup> Point) Second, I gained the knowledge to give an oral presentation even though at first I was extremely discouraged. (Ex.) When I was assigned to do a speech on what I have found out about myself so far this year in English, I inquired my teacher, Mr. Victor, for advice on how I could keep my voice from shaking so much of nerves. I ended up crying because I felt so overwhelmed to do a three-minute-long speech before the judgmental watch of thirty-four students. Mr. Victor gave me a tissue to mop up my tears, took a seat on a nearby desk in the classroom, and told me that I would just need to remember to introduce the topic by stating all the parts of my presentation, explain each section thoroughly, conclude by summarizing the main points of the central idea, and practice in front of a mirror until I gain the confidence that I know what I am trying to convey is perfectly clear. By following these guidelines and preparing and planning in advance, I am now capable of confidently giving clear, descriptive presentations without my voice quivering as much. (3<sup>rd</sup> Point) Third, I have mastered the skill of analyzing someone else's paper, which helps me in correcting my own. (Ex.) Before I was in Mr. Victor's English class, I had little understanding of how to peer edit a paragraph until he taught me the proper way of doing it. Mr. Victor has explained to me the correct method of looking at a person's paper from title to concluding sentence and writing specific comments saying what has been done well and what needs to be improved for each sentence in between while investigating every line for all the parts required to obtain a passing grade. At the end, we conduct a P.Q.P., which stands for Praise, Question, Polish, in which we praise the writer on what was excellent about their paper, question them about something that was unclear in their writing, and tell them the items they need to fix the most. After being educated on the format of peer editing and P.Q.P.ing other people's papers, I now have the ability to critically look at my own paper to make sure each sentence has all the elements needed to receive an exceptional grade and that the wording makes sense and is easy to comprehend. Plus, by inspecting somebody else's paper, I can see how to incorporate brilliant ideas into my own writing and try not to make the errors they may have made. (CS) Therefore, what I have internalized this year in English class is how the world is and how it could be in my mind, how to prepare for and stay calm when performing a speech, as well as the right way to correct other peoples' and my own paper.