

Essay Cycle #2: Once I Was...; Now I am....

Overview			
Goals	Readings	Topic	Grammar
Essay Form Organization Introductions Support with examples/stories Avoiding run-ons and fragments	Irvin Guides on Essay Form, Organization, Introductions. SFH on Essay Form Website on Comparison/ Contrast Essays Writing Without Teachers—chpts. 1 & 2	Write an essay based upon this kernel sentence construction: Once I was...; Now I am....	Grammar Review Exercise 4 Avoiding Run-On Sentences and Sentence Fragments SFH Chpt. 35

Due Dates for Work in Essay Cycle #2

Due date	Assignment	Due date	Assignment
9/16 **	Task 1: Reading Learning Materials	9/21	Task 6: E2-I Peer response
9/21	Task 2: Reading in Writing w/out Teachers WK1 Freewriting Journals Response Piece #1	9/21	Task 7: Writing Review draft E2-I
9/17	Task 3: E2 Invention Exercise	9/22**	Task 8: Revise for Content and Organization
9/18	Task 4: WK4 Grammar Review Exercise	9/23**	Task 9: Edit
9/19	Task 5: Essay #2-draft 1 (E2-1)	9/23	Tasks 10: Turning in the Final Draft (E2-2)

** Tasks should be completed by this date. No work due.

Essay Topic Description

“ONCE I WAS _____ ; NOW I AM _____ .”

For this essay, we will develop the essay from a seed sentence or “kernel” sentence. The sentence for this essay is: “Once I was _____ ; Now I am _____ .” The structure for the essay exists within the two-part structure of the sentence. In this case, we are writing a “coordinate” structure—one in which two equal (or equivalent) items are related. Grammar serves as a metaphor for the relation of meaning. In a coordinate structure, two independent clauses are connected with a semi-colon (or a comma plus coordinate conjunction).

As you begin searching for a topic for this essay, think about the changes in your life and the way you have changed. There may not be a definite relation between these different times or a

related cause for the differences. You're just different now; each time has its own independent existence.

To help you get a feel for the topic (and do the invention exercise below), here are a number of example kernel sentences:

Once I was shy; now I am mellow.

Once I was fat and self-conscious; now I am slender and happy.

Once I was a freak; now I'm a hero.

Once I played soccer as if a fire were in me; now I study and smoke a pack a day.

Once I was a housewife; now I am a student.

Once I complained, but now I am free.

Notice, by the way, that none of the sentences has a negative half. The writer doesn't say, "Once I was shy, but now I am not shy." Also, the two sides are not polar opposites. They could be, but mostly the two sides are just different.

Take a look at this example Once I Was; Now I Am Essay to get an idea about what this essay is like. – <http://www.lirvin.net/0301bbsite/EGOnceEssay.pdf>

Writing and Learning Activities for Essay #2

Task 1) Learning about Essay Form, Introductions, and Comparison/Contrast

a) Learning about "Essay Form

Read and study

--Irvin Guide on Essay Form-- <http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/EsForm.htm>

--Irvin Guide on Organization-- <http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/Organization.htm>

--Scott, Foreman Handbook pp. 32-40

b) Learning more about Introductions

Read and study

--Irvin Guide on Introductions -- <http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/Leads.htm>

--More about Introductions -- <http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/thesis.htm>

--Even more... -- <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/intros.htm>

c) Learn about Comparison/Contrast

This happens to be a "Comparison/Contrast" type piece of writing, so take some time to learn some about comparison/contrast. Read from this webguide about it--

<http://uwf.edu/writelab/handouts/comparisoncontrast/>

You will notice a couple of things about our assignment.

--I'm asking you to write this essay in a "one side at a time" format or what this webguide calls a "vertical pattern" format

--These kinds of essays tend to have a "mirror" structure: a general area of comparison mentioned in one side is mentioned again in the other side, and typically in the same sequence. You should strive to have something of a "mirror" structure to your paper, but I don't want this paper to become all about form and strict adherence to form. I hope that this notion of mirroring might give you some ideas for development.

(1-2 hours)

Task 2) Starting Reading Writing Without Teachers/ Starting Our Freewriting Journal

This week we begin our adventure with Peter Elbow and his book *Writing Without Teachers*. There are two parts to this "adventure": 1) reading the book and 2) starting a freewriting journal

A) Reading the Book (and writing a Response Pieces to the reading)

For the next few weeks, I will be asking you to read portions of Elbow's book. I think you will really like it. After you read, you will write a "Response Piece" on the reading that you have done.

Reading for this week: Read chpts. 1-2 pp. 3-47 (in 2nd edition). I encourage you to read the preface too, but you don't have to. Definitely read chapter 1 by Monday (it is short) because it discusses "freewriting." (2-3 hrs.)

Response Piece for Chapters 1-2

Topic: After reading these chapters from Elbow's book, write some general impressions you have about what he wrote. How does his view of the writing process compare to your own? Do you agree like he says on page 15 that we have the writing process backwards? What is your understanding of his metaphors of "cooking" and "growing" for the writing process? How do they help you understand the writing process better? or do you disagree with him?

--responses should be 200 words minimum and posted into the "Response Piece #1 forum" **by Sat. 9/21**

--once you post your Response Piece, read the posts of your peers and write short replies to four of your peers (these are conversational replies, not evaluative) **by Sun. 9/22** (1/2 – 1 hr)

B) Start Your Freewriting Journal

We will be doing three freewritings a week. Please follow the directions for doing freewriting that Elbow describes in his chapter 1. For further instructions, follow what I say about doing freewriting here -- <http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/freew.htm>

Please write your three freewriting journals in a separate word processing document and then post them when they are due each week on Saturdays. Do only one a day (rather than bunching them up on one day). You can write on anything you want, but please keep things decent. I do review them by skimming over to see that you have done them, but I don't read them closely. Also, we do not share them with the class. Unless you ask me to, I will not respond to your journals.

--first three freewriting journals due Sat. 9/21 in the "WK1 Freewriting" assignment. (30 min.)

Task 3) Invention Exercise

Do these invention exercises on a word processing document on your computer and then post them into the "E2 Invent" Forum

1) To begin the essay, let's do some creating activities. Let's take ten minutes and write as many sentences as you can on this kernel, "Once I was _____; Now I am _____." (you might get 6 -20: around ten at least is ideal)

2) Pick one sentence to work with (if you haven't found one yet, keep listing sentences). Try rewriting this kernel sentence **four to eight different ways**—say essentially the same thing but with different words. See if you can find the way to say your kernel sentence that you like the most and that seems to fit the best.

3) Brainstorm on each side. List or freewrite (or both) for ten minutes (maybe more) on each side of your kernel sentence. Try to list details about when the "once" was. Describe yourself then. Think of examples that illustrate the way you were (**specific time, specific place, specific people**). Think of at least three examples. Do the same thing with the "now" side.

4) What are some of the relationships or perspectives you see by comparing these two descriptions of yourself?

(1-3 hours) --due 9/17

Task 4) Grammar Review Exercise 4: Reviewing Run-ons and Sentence Fragments

Please view the instructions for doing this grammar review in the GRE assignment sheet: <http://www.lirvin.net/0301bbsite/GramReviewExercisesFI3.pdf>

Note: This assignment has you do exercises in BOTH our handbook and in Exercise Central. The exercises from the textbook are turned into Canvas in the "WK4 GRE" assignment. The exercises inside Exercise Central are forwarded to me by assigning my email as the teacher contact for doing the exercises. (2 hours)--due **Wed. 9/18**

Task 5) Doing the First Draft

Before you actually write your first draft, I encourage you to read and even respond to the E2 invention exercises of your peers. Look again at your own topic. Is it really what you want to write about? (If not, go ahead and do another invention exercise on another topic.)

When you are ready, go ahead and write your first draft. Here are a couple things to keep in mind for the first draft:

1. This is a first draft, so don't worry about it being perfect. Don't worry about grammatical correctness or issues of form or development. Just write out the draft as best you can at this point.
2. For this draft, focus on writing the Body of your paper. Just write the "Once I Was..." side and the "Now I am..." side. Don't worry about the Introduction and Conclusion paragraphs (we will do those in draft #2).
3. Put all the ONCE in one part of the essay and all the NOW in another part. (Begin with either the ONCE or the NOW side—which ever looks more interesting.)
4. Make sure both sides of the kernel sentence are positive. (Avoid a sentence like, "Once I was skinny; Now I'm not skinny.") You won't be able to say much about what you are not.
5. Keep in mind that this is not a cause and effect essay—you don't have to explain WHY the two sides are different or WHY you got from one to the other. (***)This tip is really important!(***)

When you are ready, post the draft to the the Essay #2--Draft #1 Forum

(1-3 hours) **–due 9/19**

Task 6) Peer Response on E2-draft I

You will DO THREE PEER RESPONSE (You can do a fourth peer response for extra-credit). Use the Peer Response questions listed below by copying and pasting them into your responses (or at least numbering your responses). (1 hr.) **–due 9/21**

Peer Response Questions:

1. Metaphor: Compare the essay to an animal. What kind of animal is the author's essay like (and why—explain the comparison). *This essay is like an eagle because...*
2. SAYBACK the writer's kernel sentence (but just give the essence of it, not the exact words). Offer any comment that occurs to you regarding this kernel sentence idea.
3. POINT to where the essay was particularly clear, striking, or meaningful.
4. What MORE did you want (or need) as a reader?
5. STATE (as you see it) the "emergent truth" that comes from the essay's comparison. The "emergent truth" is some insight or perspective that comes from comparison. Relate and respond to this "truth."

Task 7) Writing Review on E2-I

Before doing your Writing Review, take some time to

- a) Look at the peer response you received
- b) Review the learning materials related to Essay Form, Introductions, and Comparison/Contrast
- c) **Read this example essay TWICE**

Example Once I Was Essay (without comments): <http://www.lirvin.net/0301bbsite/exampleOnceIWas1.htm>

Example Once I Was Essay (same essay with comments):
<http://www.lirvin.net/0301bbsite/exampleOnceIWas2.html>

To do this Writing Review, go to your E2-draftI forum in Canvas and reply to your own draft. This response should be 200 words minimum.

Topic: What do you think about your draft right now? Where do you see it needs work? What is OK for now? Do you need more examples/illustrations? What are you particularly struggling with in this paper? What ideas for dealing with these problems do you have? What will your special goals be for revising this paper?

(1/2 - 1 hours) **–due 9/21**

Task 8) Revise your Essay (Focusing on Content and Form)

Now I'd like you to revise your paper with the particular essay Objectives listed below in mind. At this point, don't focus YET on grammar and format. Rethink and reshape and revise your content first; then we will edit and polish.

Save this draft as a new file with "draft2" in the file name. DON'T turn it in yet.

Please review the following Objectives for this essay, and the accompanying learning materials that you have been reading for this week (see Task 1).

Essay #2 Objectives:

1. Essay Form—eventually, you will shape what you have to say into something with an introduction, body, and conclusion.
2. Special focus on INTRODUCTIONS. Look closely at the handouts on Introductions linked above.
3. Use ILLUSTRATIVE STORIES to support and “SHOW” the way you were/are as you develop your essay. Use description to your advantage in these stories. Use SPECIFIC stories/examples.
4. Elegance of structure—the sequence of ideas/support in each side is mirrored in the other. Here's where the Comparison/Contrast structure comes into play.
5. EMERGENT TRUTH—when we put two things next to each other, often a third thing—some emergent truth about the two things being compared—arises. Express in your conclusion the “emergent truth” that comes from looking at your once and now put next to each other. This prompt may help you: "When I look at how I once was compared to how I am now, I see ____."
6. Avoid all run-ons and sentence fragments! Avoid comma and punctuation errors.

See the grading rubric for this essay:

<http://www.lirvin.net/0301bbsite/oncefeedback.pdf>

You may find it helpful at this point to look at this example of an essay moving from first draft to second draft:

Example Once I Was Essay moving from Draft #1 to Draft #2:

<http://www.lirvin.net/0301bbsite/OnceEssayD1-D2.pdf>

Additional Information on Revision Goals Focusing on Content and Form

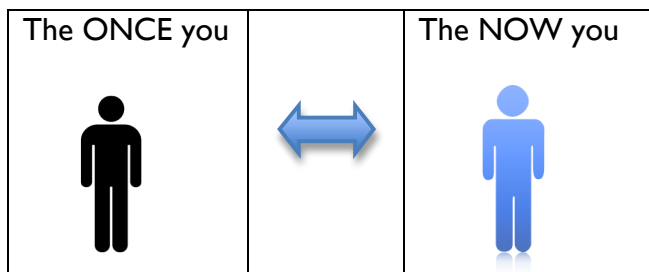
Obviously, a big change for this essay will be adding in an Introduction and Conclusion. See if you can create an effective introduction that does the things good introductions do (according to our learning materials).

You may have a real question about what to do in the Conclusion. As I say above, I want you to express the “emergent truth” in the Conclusion.

What the heck is an “emergent truth?”

One fact about comparison is that by putting two things next to each other and comparing them we gain a new perspective or insight. Some “truth” emerges from this comparison. For example, you are watching basketball, and you see the referee. He seems regular height until he stands next to Tim Duncan and you say, “Wow. Tim Duncan is tall” or “That referee is short.”

In this essay, you are comparing the way you once were to the way you are now.



For instance here, when you put the way you once were next to the way you are now, you might notice “Wow, I’m really blue now, and I wasn’t before.” This new understanding that comes out of this comparison is your “emergent truth.” Let’s see a couple of examples from topic description:

Once	Now	Emergent Truth
Once I was fat and hated myself;	now I am slender and happy.	I see that I have learned determination and strengthened my will.
Once I was a housewife;	now I am a student.	I see how radically my schedule and life has changed
Once I complained,	but now I am free.	I see how tough a situation I was in before that led to my complaining.

In your conclusion, you want to present this “emergent truth” (or truths) that you see from putting your “once” self next to your “now” self. Of course, you can wrap up the paper with additional things to say, but sharing this emergent truth should be the heart of your conclusion.

If you need a sentence starter for the Conclusion, you could use this:

When I compare the way I once was to how I am now, I see _____ .

(1-4 hours) –you don’t have to turn in this draft

Task 9) Edit Your Essay

After you have revised for content and organization, it is time to edit and proofread the essay. Look over your essay CAREFULLY for any errors related to fragments and run-ons (as well as Punctuation--review punctuation if necessary). Also, correct any other errors you come across. Do a spell check.

Note: Getting help in this editing/proofreading phase is great. If you do get a kind soul to review your paper, please ask them not to fix errors they see. Instead, ask them to circle any problem areas. Then you should focus on those circled trouble spots and see if you can fix them.

Also, I strongly suggest that you print a copy of your essay to do this editing of your paper. Studies have shown that writers do not edit as well when editing text on screen.

(Time: 30 min. to 1 hour)

Task 10) Turning in the Essay --(due 9/23)

When you feel that your Essay #2 is ready to submit, please first put it into MLA Manuscript Format. View this website from the Purdue OWL (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>) with an explanation of what that means as well as page 700 in the SFH.

Your paper needs to be double-spaced, with 1" margins, using 12 point font. You also need a heading in the main text of the first page and pagination in the header. See this youtube video on getting page numbers into your header. -- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBXzMJ_kCKo

When you have your essay in proper MLA Manuscript Format, please submit the final draft to the "Essay #2 Final Draft" assignment. You should upload your file. Once it is uploaded, give a yell of celebration. Two down!

***NOTE ON FILE FORMATS: If you are using Open Office or Microsoft Works, please resave your file first as a Word file or an RTF file formatted document and then upload that resaved file. ***

Files not submitted in MLA Manuscript Format lose -5 points from the grade.