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**ACADEMIC WRITING:**

**THE ESSAY**

*(Cause / Effect; Reaction; Argumentative Essays)*

**ОСНОВЫ ПИСЬМЕННОЙ РЕЧИ:**

**ЭССЕ**

*(эссе, описывающее причинно-следственные связи;  
эссе-реакция; эссе-аргументация)*

Практическое пособие

для студентов 1 курса специальностей  
1-02.03.06 - 01 «Английский язык. Немецкий язык»,  
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В издании представлены упражнения, направленные на изучение  
основных положений по написанию вышеназванных образцов письменной  
речи. Пособие может быть использовано как на семинарских и практических  
занятиях, так и при самостоятельной работе студентов.

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## Введение

Практическое пособие предназначено для занятий по дисциплине «Основы письменной речи» со студентами I курса специальностей 1-02 03 06 - 01 «Английский язык. Немецкий язык»; 1-02 03 06 - 03 «Английский язык. Французский язык».

Актуальность и необходимость подготовки практического пособия обусловлены отсутствием учебной литературы по курсу «Основы письменной речи». Оно разработано в соответствии с практической направленностью обучения иностранному языку как средству общения, информационного обмена и познавательной деятельности.

Целевое назначение пособия – развитие и совершенствование навыков письменной речи студентов, формирование их коммуникативной компетенции (языковой, социолингвистической, социокультурной, прагматической), обеспечение корректного пользования английским языком как средством письменной коммуникации во всех сферах общения, обучение основным функциональным типам письменных сообщений и их структуре (абзац, эссе), лингвистическим особенностям жанрово-стилистических разновидностей письменных текстов.

Практическое пособие предлагает систему упражнений и заданий по обучению основам коммуникативно-ситуативной и жанрово-стилистической вариативности письменной продуктивной речи, включающую усвоение речевых образцов, теоретического и практического материала по тематическому разделу: «The essay (Cause / Effect, Reaction, Argumentative Essays)».

Упражнения и задания составлены в соответствии с лингвистическими и методическими принципами, положенными в основу издания. Они имеют единую систему, что облегчает работу с ними и способствует развитию языковых и речевых умений студентов. Упражнения носят коммуникативно-функциональную направленность и представляются по степени нарастания трудностей. Материалом для упражнений служат актуальные аутентичные тексты, заимствованные из англоязычных источников. Виды упражнений определяются характером материала, подлежащего тренировке. Практическое пособие включает следующие темы: Cause / Effect, Reaction Essay, Argumentative essay, Paraphrasing, Summarizing, Synthesizing.

Практическое пособие может быть использовано студентами как на практических занятиях, так и во время самостоятельной работы.

## Seminar 1

### Theoretical materials for revision.

Cause / Effect Essays  
A Reaction Essay

### Consolidation exercises



Cause & Effect Essay Writing

✓ In **cause / effect** essays, writers focus on what causes something (why it happens) and what the effects are (the consequences or results).

✓ You can **organize a cause/effect essay according to the information you want to present**. You can focus on 1) only the causes of something leading to one effect, 2) only the effects resulting from one cause, 3) more than one cause leading to more than one effect, or 4) a chain reaction of cause leading to effect leading to cause leading to effect.

✓ **Transition expressions for cause / effect essays:** *because/as/since + s + v; therefore; consequently; thus; so, as, as a result + s + v/ as a result of, one reason why, one of the most important reasons why, there are other reasons, too...*

**Ex. 1. Each item provides information about planning a cause / effect essay. Read the information and circle the correct method of organization.**

1 *Thesis Statement:* Young people join the military for many reasons.

*Body paragraph 1:* One major reason is to get away from home.

*Body paragraph 2:* Depending on the political climate, many young people join in order to serve their country.

*Body paragraph 3:* Because of the excellent education support that the military offers, some people join to get university scholarships.

**Method 1      Method 2      Method 3      Method 4**

2 *Thesis Statement:* By winning the lottery, Dr. Kovacs became an influential politician.

*Body paragraph 1:* Dr. Kovacs won the lottery and was featured on television.

*Body paragraph 2:* Interviewers asked her questions ranging from her personal life to her political beliefs.

*Body paragraph 3:* Television viewers saw the interviews and liked the message Dr. Kovacs was giving.

*Body paragraph 4:* Because they liked the message, many people contacted Dr. Kovacs and suggested she run for office.

*Body paragraph 5:* Dr. Kovacs took their suggestion, ran for office, and won a seat on her local city council.

**Method 1      Method 2      Method 3      Method 4**

3 *Thesis Statement:* Daily reading has excellent benefits.

*Body paragraph 1:* People who read daily increase their vocabulary.

*Body paragraph 2:* Daily reading also causes an increased reading speed.

*Body paragraph 3:* Depending on the information that is read, people who read daily increase their general and specific knowledge.

**Method 1      Method 2      Method 3      Method 4**

4 *Thesis Statement:* By practicing yoga, people can improve their physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

*Body paragraph 1:* You can improve physical strength.

*Body paragraph 2:* To improve mental awareness, yoga exercises are very effective.

*Body paragraph 3:* People who practice yoga tend to experience emotional well-being.

**Method 1      Method 2      Method 3      Method 4**

**Ex. 2. Read each thesis statement and the three statements that follow, which are either causes or effects. One of these cause or effect statements**

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**does not relate to the thesis. Work with a partner and circle the letter of the sentence that does not lend unity to the information.**

1 **Thesis:** Learning a foreign language can have many positive benefits.

a) A person can communicate with a wide variety of people.

b) Learning a foreign language can also enhance (повышать, увеличивать) one's understanding of another culture.

c) Some languages are much more difficult to learn than others.

2 **Thesis:** Three main factors are connected with the onset of high cholesterol.

a) High cholesterol is a dangerous affliction that can cause heart attacks.

b) Some healthy people get high cholesterol through heredity when parents pass it down to children.

c) High cholesterol can be attributed to unhealthy eating habits.

d) Lack of exercise can also lead to a rise in cholesterol levels.

3 **Thesis:** Because of the sudden hurricane, the villagers are now migrating west.

a) The hurricane caused massive destruction to homes and other buildings.

b) Because the buildings were uninhabitable, the townspeople slept outdoors.

c) These outdoor living conditions were very poor.

d) The villagers applied for local, state, and federal aid.

e) Aid was refused, so the villagers moved to other regions of the country.

**Ex. 3. Read the cause/effect essay and answer the questions that follow.**

#### **Marketing Health and Fitness**

1 Americans spend between \$30 and \$60 billion a year on dieting. This amount is more than the gross (большой) national product for Morocco! Such spending has not always been the case. (Only recently has the marketing boom on health, fitness, and dieting infiltrated American televisions, radios and magazines. The message is clear: getting healthy through diet and exercise is a necessary part of life. As Americans continue to be bombarded with these health-conscious images, it is evident that the images have altered Americans' ideas about health. The current advertising trends in weight loss and fitness have had both positive and negative effects.

2 Perhaps the most positive effect of dieting and weight loss advertising is an increase in education. For many years Americans ate heavy foods cooked only in butter or lard. In addition, exercise was considered appropriate only for men. These trends changed as television and radio began promoting a healthier lifestyle that includes private gyms, low calorie foods, and aerobics tapes, among other things. As a result of this advertisement, Americans began to understand that diet, exercise, and other preventive measures made them healthier.

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They are now aware that heart disease and other illnesses can be controlled with proper diet and exercise. Since the media's attention to this phenomenon, Americans are certainly healthier than they were in the recent past.

3 Although the current trends in weight loss have made Americans more conscious of their health, they have also led to increased public pressure. This is true for teenagers, especially girls. Adolescents cannot escape the constant barrage (затрагивание) of ads on television and radio and in magazines and newspapers. While some teenagers take this new-found knowledge and begin eating more appropriate foods and exercising regularly, others become obsessed with weight loss. As a result, these young people can develop eating disorders such as bulimia and anorexia nervosa to try to emulate (подражать) the physiques of models and health promoters. In these cases, the focus on fit and healthy bodies has a negative effect.

4 The financial effects of health industry ads cannot be avoided. Americans spend billions of dollars each year trying to get fit. Consumers will spend whatever they have to in order to get the latest gym equipment, fat-free food, or diet supplement pill. Because all these marketing strategies promote healthy living, many people are spending excessive amounts of money on such products. Consequently, the diet industry continues to promote newer and «better» products.

5 Marketing strategies have changed public opinion in many areas, and the idea that everyone should have a perfect body as a major example of it. Knowledge is power, and Americans should learn as much as they can about health and fitness. Then they should use that knowledge in healthful ways.

1 Read the hook (first sentence) of the essay. This is called a dramatic statement, an interesting piece of information that engages the reader to continue with the essay. In your opinion, why is this sentence dramatic?

2 Read the thesis statement. Is it direct or indirect?

3 Which method of organization does this essay use?

4 How many effects are discussed in this essay?

5 Separates the effects into positive and negative.

Positive effect(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Negative effect(s): \_\_\_\_\_

6 In the conclusion paragraph, what is the author's opinion about the marketing of health products?

#### Ex. 4:

a) Answer the prereading discussion questions.

1 Do you know someone who has had plastic surgery? What kind of surgery did they have? Was it successful? Explain.

2 Would you ever consider having it done? Why or why not?

b) Read the cause/effect essay. Fill in the blanks with transition expressions from the list below. Then answer the post-reading questions.

consequently as a result of these operations because therefore

#### Why Plastic Surgery?

1 It seems impossible to imagine that the first cosmetic surgery was performed in antiquity, but it is true. By 3400 BC, Egyptians had already performed operations to reshape body tissues. Granted, the procedure of plastic surgery has undergone many changes and advancements since then, but one thing is clear. In today's society, people still want to alter their appearance for one reason or another. Just why are people tempted to undergo plastic surgery? The main reasons are for personal satisfaction, social acceptance, and professional advancement.

2 The majority of people who undergo aesthetic plastic surgery say that they are doing it .....they want to feel better about themselves. Some are people who, when they look in the mirror, see nothing but a huge nose or elephant ears. They don't necessarily care about what others think; ..... they believe that they are going to feel better about themselves after having plastic surgery. These operations can range from small nips and tucks to complete makeovers. The bottom line is that the patients have an internal desire to please themselves.

3 Another cause for wanting plastic surgery is to conform to social norms. For example, some women dream of appearing «model like». .... they may have fat injected to their lips. Men are more likely to have their breasts reduced because they feel that their torsos are «unnatural» if their breast are too meaty. These types of operations are often reflections of the current trends in body types.

4 Perhaps the most bizarre reason for plastic surgery is for professional development. While this phenomenon is not widely discussed, there are a number of people who alter their physical appearance in order to be more successful actors, dancers, or models. It is not uncommon to hear about starlets who have breast augmentations or, less frequently, breast reductions performed. .... these people can be more "marketable".

5 A practice that has been around for almost three thousand years will certainly not disappear any time soon. In fact, the number of plastic surgery operations performed is growing steadily. However, before turning to the knife to alter physical appearance, it is important to ask the simple question, «Why?»

1 What is the thesis statement of this essay?

2 The introductory paragraph contains a dramatic statement as a hook. In your opinion, why is the beginning of the essay dramatic?

3 The controlling idea of a topic sentence is the idea that will be discussed in the paragraph. Write each of the controlling ideas discussed in the paragraph. Write each of the controlling ideas discussed in the essay.

Paragraph 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph 4: \_\_\_\_\_

4 Read the conclusion. Is there any information from the conclusion that can be connected to the hook, or dramatic statements of the essay? If yes, what is it?

### Optional Practical Exercises

Ex. 1. Study a sample of a cause and effect essay.

#### Effects of Watching Too Much TV



Discoveries and invention of devices are always welcome till we, humans, find a way to abuse its benefits and be adversely affected by it. This was the case when Wilhelm Roentgen discovered x-ray and within five years, the British Army was using a mobile x-ray unit to locate bullets and shrapnel in wounded soldiers in the Sudan. TV was also invented with positive thoughts in mind – there would be no national borders, education and communication would be worldwide, etc. However, we are now trying to overcome its physiological and psychological adverse effects on human beings.

One of the physiological effects of watching TV in excessive amounts is eye-strain. It is true that there are specifications for watching TV; TV should

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be 5 m. away from the eye, the room should be adequately lit, TV should be placed at the same height with our eyes, etc. However, these do not prevent our eyes from getting tired if we keep watching TV for a long time. Another effect is obesity, which is widely observed in people who like watching TV and eating snacks everyday (there is even a term «TV snacks» to refer to fast food that is suitable for eating in front of the TV). TV is such a powerful machine that people cannot get away from it – it is addictive.

Apart from the physiological effects, TV also causes psychological effects. One is a result of being exposed to violence. After seeing so many violent scenes on TV, people start considering violent actions normal and they lose their sensitivity to their environment. Partly connected to this effect, the interpersonal communication among people decreases. Being insensitive to the suffering of other people causes people to become alienated. Also, after coming home from work people seek to relax in front of the TV, and generally people prefer watching TV to talking to each other. This issue is very important since lack of interpersonal relationships mostly end with divorces.

Shortly, inventions are meant to be beneficial for human beings, if we know how to benefit from them. TV is one of such inventions that need to be used for the right purpose only – being educated and entertained for a reasonable (according to age) period of time. We may, then, be safe from or at least reduce the adverse physiological and psychological effects of watching too much TV.

Ex. 2. Write a cause/effect essay choosing one of the topics written below.

- 1 The effect of a parent, teacher, or friend on your life.
- 2 Why you selected your major.
- 3 The effects of cramming for an examination.
- 4 The effects of peer pressure.
- 5 Why some students cheat.
- 6 The effects of growing up with a personal computer.
- 7 The effects of poverty on an individual.
- 8 Why one college course is more rewarding than another.
- 9 Why many people don't bother to vote in local elections.
- 10 Why more and more students are taking online classes.
- 11 Why people exercise.
- 12 Why people keep pets.
- 13 The effects of computers on our everyday lives.
- 14 Why some people choose not to carry a cell phone.
- 15 Why reality shows are so popular.
- 16 The effects of pressures on students to get good grades.
- 17 The effects of not keeping a personal budget.

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- 18 Why so few students read newspapers.
- 19 Why many adults enjoy animated movies.
- 20 Why baseball is no longer the national pastime.
- 21 The effects of stress on students in high school or college.
- 22 The effects of moving to a new town or city.
- 23 Why sales of DVDs are declining.
- 24 Why growing numbers of people shop online.
- 25 Why students drop out of high school or college.
- 26 Why some roommates don't get along.
- 27 Why adults have more fun than children on Halloween.
- 28 Why so many people eat junk food.
- 29 Why many children run away from home.
- 30 The influence of a book or a movie on your life.

#### A Reaction Essay



✓ A **reaction essay** is meant to describe your personal first response or reaction to a piece of writing, a video or another piece of media or event. Reaction essays are meant not to convince others but rather to give your reaction and why you feel that way. Reaction essays are useful when dealing with current events, to describe how you feel about them and why.

✓ In order to create **unity** in a reaction essay, it is important to give the reader some background information about the prompt before you react to it. Background information varies based on the type of stimulus you are reacting to. If you are reacting to a *visual prompt*, the background information is usually a physical **description** of the item. If you are reacting to a *written prompt*, you can give a **summary** of it in the introduction. Present the most important elements and follow the order of the original. If you are reacting to a historical *event* or a *theory*, give **factual information** about it: specific dates, times, actions, and circumstances.

**Ex. 1.** Read the following reaction essay prompts and decide if the background information should be a *summary*, a *description*, or *factual information*. More than one answer is possible. The first is done for you.

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- 1 the book *A Farewell to Arms* – a *summary*
- 2 the painting *Mona Lisa* –
- 3 the Battle of the Bulge in World War II –
- 4 the song *Give Peace a Chance* –
- 5 the movie *To Kill a Mockingbird* –
- 6 the lecture «Developing countries and their Economic Needs»
- 7 a rejection letter from a university –

✓ In reaction essays, you create **coherence** with key terms, pronouns, and synonyms. Repeating *key words* helps readers stay focused on the subject you are discussing. Using a *pronoun* helps readers follow the flow of information. *Synonyms* help maintain coherence by avoiding unnecessary repetition of information.

**Ex. 2.** Read the following paragraphs. Underline and identify the three coherence devices and write **KT** (repetition of key term), **P** (pronoun), or **S** (synonym) above them. The first two readings have the key words underlined to help you.

1 Dr. Louis' lecture took place at 8 p.m. last night. His important lecture covered a wide variety of historical topics, including political warfare in Africa and its effects on the local population. This conflict has been going on for more than twenty years, and it will probably continue for the foreseeable future.

2 The TOEFL is a trademarked exam created by Educational Testing Service. This exam evaluates students performance in the skills of listening comprehension, grammar and written expression, reading comprehension, and, more recently essay writing. These skills are necessary in order to achieve academic success in university settings. The TOEFL is widely used in the United States and Canada, and it is administered through testing centers around the world.

3 I wonder who the creator of the hourglass was. I wonder how this person changed people's lives by this invention. What did they use it for? Did they appreciate this hourglass or end up resenting it?

4 Although many people in Europe and Asia still smoke, this habit is becoming more and more taboo. Lawmakers are now prohibiting smoking in public areas. These countries are realizing the actual risk that cigarette smoke has to nonsmokers. A steep decline in public smoking areas will definitely improve people's health.

**Ex. 3:**

a) Look at the picture of the hourglass. Answer the prereading discussion questions.

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РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ВШ

- 1 What is the purpose of the hourglass?
  - 2 What do you feel when you look at the hourglass?
- b) Read the reaction essay and answer the questions that follow.**



#### The Hourglass and Me

1 Its shape is rather simple. It is rounded at the top and the bottom but pinched in the middle. Inside it are fine grains of sand. This is not a static object. The grains fall slowly but persistently from the upper portion to the lower portion. The hourglass, used to measure time, has a lot more meaning to me besides being a timepiece.

2 When I look at an hourglass, one of the primary images that comes to mind is history. Before the days of accurate timepieces, people had to use *something* that measured time. I wonder who the creator of the hourglass was. I wonder how the lives of people were changed by this invention. What did they use it for? Did they appreciate this hourglass or end up resenting it?

3 On a more personal level, the hourglass gives me a feeling of futility. Time is passing, and I can see it. It is right there in front of me. I cannot lie to myself and tell myself that I will do what I need to do tomorrow or the next day. I had better hurry up and do something with my life before the grains of sand have all fallen through the crevice. The picture is there, and it does not lie. I cannot escape time.

4 The reaction I feel from looking at an hourglass is also appreciation of simple beauty. The exotic curves of the glass flow so smoothly that I feel this hourglass is a living thing, not man-made. There really is something beautiful about the hourglass shape. It calls to me, and I end up feeling close to this innocent-looking device. It is clean and pure.

5 While the hourglass is not a classic piece of art, this small simple mechanism carries with it much power. The thoughts and emotions that come to my mind as I see it stimulate my sense of self. The power of the hourglass is inspiring.

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1 Reread the introductory paragraph. What background method is used to introduce the topic?

2 Read the thesis statement. Is it general or specific? What will the essay discuss?

3 What three reactions does the writer present in the body paragraphs?

Body paragraph 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Body paragraph 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Body paragraph 3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 Read the sentences below from the essay. Which coherence method (repeating of key terms, pronoun, synonym) is being used in each example?

a) «While the hourglass is not a classical piece of art, this small, simple mechanism carries with it much power».

b) «Time is passing, and I can see it. ... I cannot escape time».

5 Reread body paragraph 4. The author uses many adjectives in discussing the hourglass. Write five (5) of these adjectives here.

6 In the concluding paragraph, what does the author re-state about her reaction to the photo of the hourglass?

**Ex. 4:**

**a) Answer the prereading discussion questions.**

1 Do you enjoy reading poetry?

2 What are your feelings about death? Do you accept it easily? Are you afraid of it?

**b) Read the following poem and essay. Then answer the questions.**

**Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night**

*By Dylan Thomas*

Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Old age should burn and rave at close of day,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,  
Because their words had forked no lightning they  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright  
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

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Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,  
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight  
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,  
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.  
Do not go gentle into that good night.  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

#### A Reaction to Dylan Thomas' «Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night»

1 One of the most well-known poems by Dylan Thomas is «Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night». Thomas' father had been suffering from throat cancer, and Thomas wrote this poem on the eve of his father's death. «Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night» is the cry of a man who does not want to see his father die. In the six stanzas of the poem, Thomas examines how different types of people deal with death. He explains their struggles and at the same asks his father not to give in to death. In reading this poem, my feeling is that all people should fight against the inevitability of death.

2 Thomas writes that wise men know that they will experience death fight it. They are aware of the futility of trying to continue living, but they attempt to hold on to life. I believe this fight occurs because they feel they have not done enough deeds yet. These wise men want to contribute more to society, but death will take them regardless of their battle to circumvent it.

3 Good, simple men are also known to battle death. Their lives have probably been uneventful compared to the lives of the wise men who spent their lives teaching others. However, neither do these people accept death so readily. How often do we hear of an average person, a hardworking soul, who struggles to the bitter end of a long illness? It is these common men who routinely show their strength at the end of their lives, but they never win the battle in the end.

4 The third group of men mentioned in the poem is wild men with courage to do and try things that others cannot or will not do. In my opinion, these are the people who fight against death the hardest. Adventurers like these often do not realize their own mortality. In these cases, I believe the shock of death in a wild man's eyes is much stronger than in others'.

5 Thomas also includes grave men who battle against death. The serious people who go about their lives without experiencing much pleasure do not

want to die. I find it ironic, for why would serious or critical people, perhaps unhappy, want to continue living? These are the souls who are most likely to anticipate death, do not fight it. However, Thomas includes them here with all other people who come to a realization before death that they do not want to leave this earth.

Death is something that all of us must confront sooner or later. In «Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night», Dylan Thomas is reminding us that it is human nature to fight the inevitable. Death does not discriminate against anyone, yet the human reaction to it is mainly one of resistance.

- 1 Reread the introductory paragraph. What background method is used to introduce the material?
- 2 What is the thesis statement of this essay?
- 3 What is the general topic of the essay?
- 4 The controlling idea of a topic sentence is the idea that will be discussed in the paragraph. Write the controlling idea in each body paragraph.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_

- 5 Synonyms are often used in essays to enhance coherence. Read the vocabulary words in the chart. Refer to the essay and fill in the synonym column.

Vocabulary word	Synonym
(paragraph 1) fight	_____
(paragraph 2) battle	_____
(paragraph 5) grave	_____

- 6 Pronouns are also used to add coherence. Reread paragraph 2. Circle the pronouns that refer to «wise men». Underline the pronouns that refer to the word «death».

- 7 Read the concluding paragraph. What is the author's final opinion about the poem?

#### Optional Practical Exercises

##### Ex. 1. Study the instructions how to write a reaction essay.

- 1 Prepare for your reaction essay by completing the reading, watching the documentary or participating in the seminar for the reaction essay topic.
- 2 Bring a notepad and paper to the presentation or while you are reading and jot down notes and thoughts that you have while participating. This makes sure

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«Гомельскі дзяржаўны ўніверсітэт  
імя Францыска Скарыны»  
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that you get a true reaction essay, using gut responses to what you are experiencing.

3 Outline your response essay by answering a few questions and writing them down before you organize them in essay form. How did you feel? What did you see? What is your opinion? What is a good example? What can you conclude is your reaction? Create a form where you can quickly jot down your ideas and outline your essay.

4 Organize your findings and notes into an essay. Begin with your theme by stating what your reaction was. Then, in the body of the essay, you can explain why that was your reaction. Most reaction essays are set up so that you are pitting the author's findings against your own thoughts and feelings. They may be the same, but they may be different. For instance, your reaction paper could be based on the thought that while the filmmaker is in favor of universal health care, you believe that health care should remain privatized.

5 Start each paragraph by stating what the author believes and his general thoughts on the subject. Then follow with your thoughts on the subject and your own beliefs. Remember to use supporting evidence such as quotes, events and studies that explain why you feel that way. For example, one of your supporting paragraphs could be the sentiment that the filmmaker believes that universal health care would improve the quality of care everyone receives, while your reaction is that universal health care would reduce competition and result in worse care for the general public.

6 Conclude the essay with what your reaction was and how the particular piece of media affected your reaction. Explain if it was changed and why, or if it remained the same and why. Use footnotes to cite references used throughout.

#### Robinson Crusoe: what Can He Show us Today?



«The one book that teaches all that books can teach».

Rousseau

«I shall pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore I can do, or any kindness I can show to any human being let me do it now, let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again».

Stephen Grellet

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*Robinson Crusoe* is not simply about shipwreck, survival and rescue, but Defoe's novel also relates one man's spiritual journey in search of self and his goal of setting things right and making amends. Finding the self may take a lifetime. It took twenty-eight years on the island for Crusoe to discover more about himself, and, of course, he had to wait that number of years before he could make up for past mistakes. However, we do not have an ocean preventing us from making amends, and if only readers were to open themselves to this book, for all its clumsiness, flat style and Eurocentricity, it can, by illustrating one man's life, illuminate ours.

To begin opening ourselves we must begin to identify with Crusoe. This is not as easy as it might seem. For one thing, in my case, he is a man, and I am a woman. He lived two hundred years ago so had very different values. He was white. I am not. It is, however, necessary to push these things aside and go to the text. Look especially at instances when Crusoe is not the most politically correct of heroes – when he seems most at odds with our thinking. Consider Crusoe's treatment of Friday. Friday has no name of his own, and he, the «savage», automatically becomes a servant. Here, Crusoe is condescending and racist. Yet, when I look at my own actions towards others, I have to admit that many times they fall short of being good or just. Let us be honest, don't we all shun or dislike those not like ourselves in color, age, social standing, or religion, at some time or other?

One other important flaw – some might not call it a flaw at all – is Crusoe's bond of utility rather than bond of mutual respect that forms the basis of his friendships. Crusoe is a man that, early in the novel, is a friend when the other person can give something. This can be seen after Crusoe's «entering into a strict friendship with this captain». The captain, «to my great misfortune» writes Crusoe, dies soon after his arrival. At first readers are a little taken aback by this and other instances of Crusoe's utilitarian attitude. But closer examination of our own personal behavior is necessary before we give up on him.

What of our own utilitarian behavior? For instance, here in college we sit beside other students for months at a time making small talk and borrowing each other's notes. But when 18th Century English is finished, the same students that depended on one another for notes and encouragement do not even say hello in the corridor! We rather turn away our eyes rather than have to bother with all that is involved in making a new friend. A real new friend. Were not, then, all those pleasantries merely for utility?

This theme of people being used simply for personal gain is interesting when we consider that Defoe had his hero denied any human contact for most of his stay on the island. And in such a manner does Crusoe rage, as we all would, at his predicament. The hero is at his lowest ebb when he realizes there are no survivors of a later shipwreck, and he let loose all of his emotions as he

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laments, «Oh that there had been but one! .... Oh had there been but one». Now remember, this is the same man who, earlier in the novel, sold little Xury, a boy willing to give his life for Crusoe, into slavery for a few bits of silver.

So Crusoe was bad. So we are all users! We all fall short. Perhaps this is why Crusoe constantly speaks of his unworthiness. This is a man who examines himself and definitely feels he has fallen short. He constantly speaks of his «original sin». This is supposed to be the sin of disobeying his father and going to sea instead of following the relatively safe path of middle class ordinariness. Crusoe's sin of disobedience to his father is something that hangs over him for his entire stay on the island and is deeply wound up in the fiber of his spiritual questioning. But is Crusoe's sin as terrible as all that?

Perhaps we can see this disobedience towards the father as a veil for a bigger issue. Is the sin Defoe really speaking of the sin of being born human? What is described as «this propensity of nature» may be what is, in actuality, a description of our frail human nature. A human nature so frail that it becomes very hard to do what is right. This frail nature keeps us down in the quagmire of humanness – with our brother Crusoe. I do not think, then, that we are at liberty to point fingers at him. Instead, we should ask ourselves why is it so hard to rise above our smallness, our shallowness, and become great?

Yes. Why is it so hard to ascend to that higher level of existence? We often try to convert ourselves, like Crusoe did, to become better individuals, but as Defoe details so well in his book, we know how hard it is to truly convert. Sometimes we only pray a little, like Crusoe, when the storm threatens or the earth rumbles. Perhaps it is not possible to convert at all. One thing that must be realized is that we certainly have many opportunities in a lifetime to do so. I had an opportunity a few weeks ago and I let it pass me by.

We moved into our new parish six months ago. Usually, by this time both my husband and I have met all the sick and shut-ins. There was one lady though, Anna, whom I never went to see. One of Anna's sons killed himself, one of her daughters is a bag lady, her last daughter has Downs syndrome, and her other three children never visit her. This lady and her husband of nearly sixty years had their share of personal hardship. To add to this, Anna had advanced cancer, so never got out much. A few weeks ago Anna died.

Since the funeral, yes, everyone goes to the funeral. I have met her husband. Now that Anna is gone, he goes for long walks and dropped in one night. Through speaking with him, listening to his mourning, I have gotten to know his wife. But the guilt of never bothering to visit and get to know her, the person, is still with me. The selfish reason for not visiting her was I did not want to share in her unhappiness. I did not want the emotional burden of going to her home and sharing in her life. I did not have time to feel sad. I have enough of my own sadness, I thought.

So I missed that one chance to raise myself up--on to higher ground. This is, I am sorry to say, all too common, not only in my life, but in general. We are so busy becoming successful that it is easy to forget what is really important – people and relationships. There is only time to concentrate on the physical and neglect what is spiritual. And this is what Crusoe is all about. He shows us the race for things is not as important as a human voice or human companionship. What we have to strive at is to overcome the need to be in that race for things, that «obstinacy» of human frailty, that wants to eat, to swamp us, as the storm or wild animals want to consume Crusoe.

Those wild animals never did get Crusoe. He was, in fact very lucky. In Defoe's prodigal son parable, Crusoe might not have had his biological parents to come back and make amends to, but the old captain and the widow, with their unconditional goodness, make appropriate substitutions. And while Crusoe is on the island a small fortune accumulates, so he is well able to put things in order on his return. I know now that «providence» will not always be as kind to me. I may not get the chance, as Crusoe did, to make things right when I choose to. As the writer Stephen Grellet says, I have to do it now.

So you see, there is a lot to be learnt from *Robinson Crusoe*! It teaches us the basics so we do not have to spend twenty-eight years on a desert island. We learn that what really keeps us down is our human self absorption and that we have to rise above this terrible selfishness. We learn that finding the self is acknowledging our frailty and working, in spite of it, towards making our spiritual side strong. If I realize what is important in life, I know I have learnt from Crusoe's experiences and will never have to cry «Oh had there been but one...».

**Ex. 2. Write a reaction essay about a film you have recently seen. Summarize the film's plot in the introduction. How did you feel about the film? Could you identify with the situation? How do you evaluate the film?**

## Seminar 2

### Theoretical materials for revision.

An Argumentative Essay.  
Paraphrasing.  
Summarizing.  
Synthesizing.

### Consolidation exercises



### An Argumentative Essay

✓ Writers choose argumentative essays when they want to persuade readers to change their minds about something. In this kind of essay, writers must convince readers of their point of view.

**Ex. 1. Determine the opposing viewpoints for each of the following statements. Write your viewpoints. The first one is done for you.**

- 1 Early childhood education programs prevent later criminal activity.  
*Early childhood education programs have no impact on later criminal activity.*
- 2 Parents should impose rules for their teenage children about the use of the Internet.
- 3 Doctors and nurses do not provide adequate pain management for terminally ill patients.
- 4 Marijuana used for medical purposes should not be legalized in the United States.
- 5 It is perfectly ethical to accept donations from pharmaceutical companies to conduct scientific research at universities.

✓ Once you choose a side to defend and state the opposite argument, you can develop your argument by **creating a list of reasons for your viewpoint.**

**Ex. 2. For each main argument, think of two different supporting ideas to back it up. Write your ideas after each statement. The first one is done for you.**

- 1 Columbus Day should not be celebrated as a holiday in the United States.  
*Columbus did not really «discover» America.  
Columbus slaughtered and enslaved native people.*
- 2 Spanking (битье, попка) is harmful to children.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 A vegetarian diet is healthier than one that includes meat.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 One parent should care for children full time until they begin school.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 The government should not prevent genetic cloning of human organs for medical purposes.  
a) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) \_\_\_\_\_

✓ To begin your argumentative essay, you can use any of the **introductory techniques**. No matter which techniques you use, your first paragraph needs to include the following:

- A brief explanation of the issue;
- A clear statement of both sides of the issue;
- An argumentative thesis statement, which is distinctive in that it takes a stand on issue.

✓ There are three common methods of organizing an argumentative essays. No one is better than another. What is important to know is that following any one of these methods of organization will provide **order** and **logic** to your essay.

✓ While you may understand more than one viewpoint about an essay, it is important to argue for only one viewpoint in your essay. Taking only one stance (viewpoint) in an argument helps you to achieve **unity**.

**Ex. 3. One of the supporting statements listed for each viewpoint does not relate to the argument. Cross out the statement that does not belong in the list. The first one is done for you.**



- 1 Television adversely (неблагоприятно) affects children.  
a) Children who watch long hours of television do not read often enough.  
b) School performance goes down when children spend many hours watching television.

e) ~~Some educational television programs help children who are visually oriented learn better.~~

2 The mounting body of science proving that manmade greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere is convincing more and more people that we must cut greenhouse pollution drastically.

a) Global warming in coastal states like Florida will lead to flooding and saltwater contamination of underground drinking water supplies.

b) More frequent wildfires and declining crop yields are only two of the consequences of global warming.

c) This paper seeks to assist policymakers and the public in better understanding the institutional resistance to efforts to curb greenhouse pollution.

3 Exposure to the sun for long periods can cause skin cancer.

a) There is a direct connection between skin cancer and chronic exposure to the sun.

b) A history of sunburns is correlated with skin cancer later in life.

c) Exposure to sunlight is an important source of Vitamin D, a vital nutrient.

4 Alexander the Great was considered one of the finest kings of the western world.

a) Although he brutally conquered many people, Alexander often encouraged the intermarriage of his own Macedonians and the women who survived his conquests.

b) Alexander opened routes for trade and communication between the eastern and western worlds.

c) Alexander's religious tolerance earned him the respect of many people around the world.

5 The benefits of space exploration are worth the costs.

a) As natural resources needed for human arrival are depleted, new sources may be found on other planets and moons.

b) Eventually, to alleviate overcrowding on Earth, humans will need to settle on other planets.

c) Most of our knowledge of the solar system comes from ground-based observations and Earth-orbiting satellites.

✓ Transition expressions for the argumentative essay: *although it may be true that/despite the fact that, certainly, and surely*

**Ex. 4. Read the argumentative essay. Fill in the blanks with transition expressions from the list. Then answer the postreading questions.**

*although it may be true that      surely      certainly*

#### **Why Adopt a Vegetarian Diet?**

1 «Meat and potatoes» is a phrase used in American English that means the centerpiece of a meal. Besides referring to food, «meat» signifies the most important part of anything. It has been such a deeply ingrained (укоренившийся), time-honored tradition for families to build a meal around meat, that one can safely say that meat has become the heart of an American meal. Meat gives us protein, and therefore, our strength. However, this widely held belief that meat is necessary for health and vitality has outlived its usefulness. While some people continue to hold onto this outdated perception of the importance of meat, others are letting go of it and becoming vegetarian. That is Americans are correcting their beliefs about meat and increasingly becoming vegetarian for ethical, environmental, and health reasons.

2 One reason for becoming a vegetarian is to prevent cruelty to animals. Animals, like humans, feel pain, stress, and fear. People can not morally justify the pain and suffering of animals that are killed for food when adequate nutrition can be found in plant foods. Not only do animals experience these physical sensations when they are needlessly slaughtered for human consumption, but they are often treated cruelly prior to slaughter. Veal calves, for example, are forced to live in extremely small cages no longer than their bodies so they can not move and create unwanted muscle. They are then killed when they are just twelve to sixteen weeks old so that their weak, immature muscles will produce soft meat.

3 In addition to ethical reasons, some vegetarians choose not to eat meat for environmental reasons. Cattle production, for example, is a major cause of soil erosion due to overgrazing of land, which creates deserts out of grasslands. Cattle production also creates water pollution through organic waste and the use of chemicals in animal feed. In addition, cattle production pollutes the air. Grain-fed cattle contribute significantly to global warming through the production of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. The burning of the world's forests for cattle pasture has released billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The world's cattle release millions of tons of methane through their digestive systems directly into the atmosphere each year. Moreover, producing feed crops for cattle involves the use of petro-chemical fertilizers, which emit vast amounts of nitrous oxide. These gases are building up in the atmosphere, blocking heat from escaping the planet, and could cause cataclysmic global climate changes in this century.

4 While some vegetarians make the choice not to eat meat for ethical and environmental reasons, others are concerned with personal health. The health benefits of not eating meat are undisputed, even among the most traditional and conservative medical doctors today. In scientific studies, vegetarian diets are correlated with lower cholesterol levels, lower rates of heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes, and colon (толстая кишка) cancer. As a result, vegetarians tend to live longer, healthier lives.

5 Some fear that not eating meat will be difficult for nutritional, cultural, and practical reasons, but these fears can be easily allayed (могут быть сняты). Because meat, poultry, or fish is traditionally the focal point of meals, some people think meals are inadequate without a large portion of protein on the table, with vegetables downgraded to secondary roles. \_\_\_\_\_ most meat-eating Americans get the bulk of the iron, protein, and vitamin B 12 from meat sources, people can easily get ample amounts of these nutrients from a varied diet that includes nuts, seeds, and grains. Even vegans (вегетарианцы, строго придерживающиеся диеты), who eat no animal products at all, can take a daily vitamin and mineral supplement to bolster iron and vitamin B 12 intake. Most restaurants now cater to vegetarians, especially ethnic restaurants like Mexican, Italian, and Indian, making it easy to be vegetarian and eat out. Even when there are no vegetarian choices on the menu, most chefs will \_\_\_\_\_ be happy to oblige when asked to produce a special vegetarian meal. Finally, when faced with family food traditions that involve meat eating, such as Thanksgiving, most vegetarians can ask the cook for a nonmeat choice ahead of time or may bring a vegetable dish of their own.

6 For most vegetarians, the choice to become vegetarian is not taken lightly. \_\_\_\_\_ if one was not brought up as a child to abstain (воздерживаться) from eating meat, the switch to vegetarianism means a change in deeply ingrained (укоренившиеся) eating habits. The benefits of vegetarianism to animals, to the environment, and most of all to personal health, however, far outweigh the small inconvenience people might feel for a week or so after beginning a nonmeat diet. For all vegetarians, eating a flesh-free diet is a decision made for important global or personal reasons that not only impact personal health and well being of the planet. In the not-too-distant future, the phrase «meat and potatoes» will become a relic of the past, just like the antiquated belief in the need for a carnivorous diet.

- 1 What is the thesis statement of this essay?
- 2 What introduction technique is used in this essay?
- 3 What method of organization is used in this essay?
- 4 What point is the writer arguing in this essay?

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5 What point of view is the opposite of what the writer is saying?

6 Write down each reason the writer gives to support the argument.

Reason 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason 3: \_\_\_\_\_

7 In an argumentative essay, the writer must address the viewpoint of the opposing argument. List the three opposing points that are taken up in this essay

Point 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Point 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Point 3: \_\_\_\_\_

8 Underline the controlling idea of each body paragraph in the essay. Does each body paragraph address only one of the subtopics?

9 Does the writer convince you of his viewpoint? If not, why not?

10 Does the conclusion provide a summary of the main points of the argument?

Ex. 5:

a) Answer the prereading discussion questions.

- 1 Have you ever drunk coffee to stay up late to write a paper?
- 2 Do you think that coffee is good for you or bad for you? Why?
- 3 What are the benefits of drinking coffee? Are there any?
- 4 Do you think coffee has any medicinal value?

b) Read the argumentative essay. Fill in the blanks with transition expressions from the list. Then answer the postreading questions.

surely                      despite the fact that                      certainly

Coffee: Surprising Benefits From This Herbal Supplement

1 People everywhere are trying to cut back on their consumption of this «harmful» drink, all the while craving coffee desperately and feeling guilty when they indulge (потворствовать, удовлетворять). Coffee is said to cause nervousness and is purported (подражается) to be addictive. We have all heard about these harmful effects of coffee, but many Americans continue to drink it daily. What if instead of feeling guilty about drinking coffee, you could feel good about taking this herbal supplement? Consider these facts: coffee combats drowsiness (дремота, сонливость), temporarily boosts (повышает) athletic performance, eases congestion due to colds and flu, prevents asthma attacks, and enhances (увеличивает) the pain-relieving effects of aspirin. Research on the benefits of coffee shows that it deserves our respect as an important supplement.

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2 Over the years, many attempts have been made to associate coffee with negative health effects. However, these claims remain unsubstantiated. \_\_\_\_\_ coffee can cause sleeplessness and nervousness, this is true only when it is drunk in large doses. The medically important constituent of coffee is caffeine, but the caffeine content of coffee depends on how it is prepared. A cup of instant coffee contains about 60 milligrams of caffeine, whereas a cup of drip, percolated (фильтрованный) or even espresso coffee has about 100 milligrams. Most doctors say that coffee appears to pose no particular threat to most people if it is consumed in moderation. According to new research presented at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society, coffee is not very addictive. French researchers reported that caffeine has no effect on the area of the brain involved with addiction at doses of one to three cups of coffee per day. Astrides Nehlig, Ph.D. of the French National Health and Medical Research Institute conducted research on coffee consumption with laboratory animals. This research confirmed that while moderate dose of caffeine contribute to increased alertness and energy, dependence does not occur at those levels.

3 \_\_\_\_\_ coffee is best known as the powerful stimulant that helps people stay awake during night driving and cramming before final exams. Its caffeine is capable of boosting energy, increasing alertness, and quickening reaction time. It is also a mood elevator and may help mild depression. The explanation for this may lie in research conducted in the mid-1980s, which suggested that the chlorogenic acids in coffee might have an antidepressant effect on the opiate (снотворная) system in the brain. Recently, researchers from the University of Bristol reviewed a decade of research into caffeine's influence on cognition (познание) and mood. The survey revealed that a cup of coffee could help in the performance of tasks requiring sustained attention, even during low alertness situations such as after lunch, at night, or when a person has a cold.

4 Coffee's health advantages are not confined to mood elevation and increased energy; there are more specific benefits as well for colds, asthma, athletic performance and pain relief. Some over-the-counter cold formulas contain caffeine, partly to counteract the sedative effects of the antihistamines they contain, but caffeine also helps the bronchial tubes, relieving the congestion of colds and flu. Coffee's action as a bronchodilator can also help prevent asthma attacks. In addition, several studies show that, compared with plain aspirin, the combination of aspirin and caffeine relieves pain significantly better than aspirin alone. The reason is caffeine's ability to speed up the body's metabolism so that the aspirin's pain reducing effects are felt faster. Finally, coffee may also improve physical stamina, according to a report published in the journal *The Physician and Sports Medicine*. Athletes who want coffee's

benefits typically drink three or four cups during the hour or two before an event.

5 Although most people don't think of it as such, coffee is \_\_\_\_\_ America's most popular herbal beverage. Despite the scare tactics of those who would try to discredit coffee's reputation, years of research haven't shown harmful effects, when coffee is taken in moderation. It not only helps a sleepy nation wake up in the morning, but it also has significant therapeutic value, which has been scientifically proven.

- 1 What is the argumentative thesis statement of this essay?
- 2 How many subtopics are there? What are they?
- 3 Does the introductory paragraph include background information about the issue?
- 4 Does the introduction section include a clear statement of both sides of the issue?
- 5 Underline the controlling idea of each body paragraph in the essay. Does each body paragraph address one of the subtopics?
- 6 What one stance is taken on the issue to provide unity. Is the argument successful?
- 7 What is the opposing argument?
- 8 Which method of organization is used to develop the argument?
- 9 An argumentative essay includes details about each reason offered to support the argument. Often the details are examples. At other times they might be details of a process, causes and effects, comparisons, etc. What is primarily used in this essay to give details about the reasons for the author's view? Circle one.
 

examples	descriptions of a process
causes and effects	comparisons
the opinion of experts	
- 10 Besides signaling the end of the essay, what other purpose does the conclusion fulfill?

### Optional Practical Exercises

Ex. 1. Study a sample of an argumentative essay.

#### Table of contents:

- 1 Introduction.
- 2 Fashion and identity.

- a) Communication through fashion.
- b) Impact on outer perception.
- 3 Men, women and fashion.
- a) Women and clothing .
- b) Men and fashion.
- 4 Symbolism of clothing.
- 5 Culture and fashion.
- 6 Conclusion.

#### Fashion and Identity Essay

*«...Fashion is more powerful than any tyrant»  
Malcolm Barnard*



#### 1 Introduction

For hundreds of years people have put some message in the type of clothing they wore. Long ago people started wanting to stand out from the «crowd» and be different from other people by means of changing their clothing. Some examples of these «standing out» became very popular and were followed by more people. This was the moment when fashion appeared. Nowadays, fashion is sometimes defined as a «constantly changing trend, favored for frivolous rather than practical, logical, or intellectual reasons». Nevertheless, it is necessary to say that at the present moment fashion has a deeper influence on the life of people and possess more than just frivolous reasons for its existence. Clothing has become an integral part of self-realization of every person. It is no longer just an «external shield» and a frivolous attitude towards it may cause losing a very important physical, psychological and social aspect of a person's life. The harmony attained by the combination of the inner world of a person

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and his «exterior» makes it very hard to say not even being a professional in this sphere that fashion is just about looks. Clothing is basically a covering designed to be worn on a person's body. This covering is a need, a necessity that is dictated by the norms of social conduct. This «necessity» brings a lot of variety into the lives of people and makes their image more complete. It is not about people serving fashion; it is about fashion being a slave of people.

#### 2 Fashion and identity

The type of clothing completely depends on the person who is wearing it; therefore it becomes a reflection of his perception of himself, which leads us to the term – personal identity. Lately a lot is being heard about personal identity and its meaning in the life of every single person on the planet. The choice of clothing and accessories (clothing that is worn or carried, but not part of a person's main clothing) is as important as identification through the color of hair, height, skin and gender. Clothing nowadays is a media of information about the person wearing it. It is a cipher; a code that needs a decryption in order to understand what kind of person is underneath it. The present time offers a great variety of these «ciphers» and therefore gives people a large number of opportunities to reveal their identity. As every cloth carries a strong message about its owner, every owner «nests» a certain value in it depending on his temperament, mindset or today's mood. Therefore, the clothing of a person is a mean of «communication with the outside world. It is the way of telling people about the «state» and the «status» of its owner.

#### 2.1. Communication through fashion

Communication by its definition is supposed to be bilateral. So if a person carries a strong personal message to the people outside what is the response from their side? The response is the reaction on the clothes the person is wearing. It can be acceptance or complete outcast and a misunderstanding. This especially touches extraordinarity in clothing (a very expressive personal identity) or an obvious lack of taste and vulgarity. Malcolm Barnard in his book «Fashion as communication» makes a great work by outlining cultural roles, rules, rituals, and responsibilities that are maintained and constructed by fashion [Barnard]. Fashion is compared to art. It is like an architect that gives his creation any shape he desires and at the same time is the reflection of the architect's belonging to a certain social level, a certain psychological condition and so on. One of the questions concerning the communication through fashion is whether the message possessed by fashion is the reflection of the internal or external identity. There are arguments that support each of the sides; therefore it goes without saying that fashion is a «polyhedral being» that intersects numerous internal and external aspects of any personality. The message that clothing contains is basically a way of nonverbal communication with gender, ethical and power aspects.

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РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИИ

## 2.2. Impact on outer perception

Clothes have an immense impact on the perception of people around and on the perception of the person wearing them, too. A suit can make a person feel more confident and organized, which would eventually change even the gestures and the manner of talking of the person or for instance wearing jeans after a suit may change the conduct of a person to a very liberal and feeble one [Hollander]. The perception of people around can be very predictable in terms of their reaction on a person wearing this or that style of clothing. Fashion is one of the most powerful means of communication, which sometimes may play a vital role in the life of a person; it especially concerns the cases of getting a desired job. Therefore fashion may not only carry a message, it can also create a «pseudo-message» that is required by a situation the person finds himself in. This can be simply proved by analyzing the reaction of the people on the street on people wearing different types of clothing. The preference is always given to people dressed in «business style», personifying their dignity and seriousness in everything. This is one of the primary reasons that even the smallest companies make wearing a suit one of their requirements for their employees. The customers feel more confident in such «consultants». So, fashion is a very keen tool of manipulation while communicating besides its importance in social class, culture, sex and gender relations of people.

## 3 Men, women and fashion

Clothing is a fundamental part in the image of a contemporary man or a woman. The image is constructed for various reasons and has various manifestations. Dressing has become a way to create, to reveal and to conceal information from the external observers. Fashion has always been considered to have more of a women based orientation. As soon as women realized that experimenting with their clothing might bring them the results they need they became the most interested consumers and the demand on women's production increased greatly.

## 3.1. Women and clothing

In spite of all arguments fashion remains possessing an ambivalent entity. Women, have a great impact on the development of fashion worldwide. Of course one of the primary messages clothes carry is the social message. Women throughout the time have tried to make the clothing look more luxurious. Historically the social message has wildly transformed. It is very easily trace in Diana Crane's book «Fashion and it social agendas». Nowadays clothing is not an attribute of belonging to a clan, or to a restrained social level though it still can tell a lot about the financial status of a person. A person, especially a woman is always greeted according to the way is dressed up. Therefore women may cause desirable reaction by knowing the expectations of the «opponent». Historically, women wore traditional dresses, which signified their cultural and

social status. As for now, traditional clothing has been completely subdued by «fashionable clothing». Women clothing in the past had a lot to do with emphasizing femininity, neglecting man-like forms of dressing. Analyzing the way of dressing today it is necessary to say that «fashionable clothing» has made a great «kick» to femininity. Women become less ladylike but more aggressive and businesslike. A woman is opposed to a man; it is no longer an «addenda» to a male, but a force able to contradict him and to compete with him. Women have accepted a lot of clothing styles that propagandize masculinity. Of course there still are women that are the embodiments of tenderness and femininity preserving women's sexuality but nevertheless the general tendency of feminization in today's society has done its work. Equality at work, business and politics has transformed the image of a woman greatly.

## 3.2. Men and fashion

Throughout the history starting with the middle ages men's fashion has changed a lot. If the era of Renaissance was characterized by increased femininity in men's clothes, the end of the twentieth century became the moment of maximal revealing of masculinity for men. Nowadays, identity has brought a lot of specific changes in the perception of a contemporary man. An open manifestation of sexual orientation has brought the image of a feminine man into fashion. The adaptation of feminine tendencies into men's fashion is transparent. Men tend to choose practical clothes as casual clothing and suits as their «working uniform» [Hollander]. The whole image of a man is not brusque and rough anymore. It has become more flexible and soft. The construction of a man's wardrobe starts with choosing from the variety of images offered by culture and class today. The gender boundary is gradually «wiped» off. Nevertheless, clothing remains the primary criterion of the evaluation of the opposite sex. While being very liberate towards the type of clothing of other men, they demonstrate especial criticism towards women's clothing. This happens due to the variety and abundance of women around. Analyzing men's fashion is like dealing with a complexity. This complexity is constantly changing and adjusting to the surrounding of tendencies.

## 4 Symbolism of clothing

It is no surprise to any of the people who at least know what fashion is that the clothes that people wear are usually very symbolic. The symbolism of clothing is another part of delivering the message that a person tries to put into it. The symbolism may touch any sphere. For instance: music, sexual orientation, some kind of club and so on. Originally, a symbol is a facility that is used to express feelings or belonging to some group of class often dealing with power and wealth. Every observable symbol may carry a deeper meaning than it is visually understandable. Expression of symbols through clothing is a very popular tendency nowadays. Symbolism in clothing may point to the

profession the person is dedicated to, supporting the «cipher» theory. The perception of symbols is not the same as the perception of the whole clothing image of an individual, because people may interpret the same symbol differently and therefore the understanding of the carrier of the symbol will be completely different. For instance, a man with a tiger on his T-shirt may seem aggressive to one person and a Green Peace member for another one. A bird may be a symbol of freedom and somebody can view it a symbol of light-mindedness. Every person has to be very careful with the symbol while visiting a foreign country, due to the double meaning of the symbols that may be offending to the culture the person is in. Though the goal of every symbol is to share information, nevertheless some symbols may be inappropriate. Particular articles of clothing also contain messages with give information about the person possessing them. For example a veil interpreted as mourning or an extreme aloofness. A walking stick may be necessary to the health condition but may also be a «sign of luxury».

#### 5 Culture and fashion

As every person belongs to a definite culture and has the right to reveal it, personal identity may sometimes be replaced by cultural identity. Cultural identity is the type of identity that is related to a certain culture or a separate group. It brings people belonging to a culture definite highlighting differences with other people. Clothing in terms of culture is to reveal either the historical roots of a person or the roots the group he belongs to. The oriental-followers are easily defined from the crowd by the specific collars and style of dressing they hold on to. Demonstrating a belonging to a certain cultural community is the free right of every person like people that freely declare who they are going to vote for. Talking about culture it is possible to mention that nowadays exists «material culture» that dictates its own ways and code of dressing. The liberation of culture off the borders made the cultural fashion developments increase dramatically. The «freedom of word» has found a place in every single cultural attribute nowadays. Wearing a cowboy hat may not be a sign of being from Texas, but a sign of political preference.

For instance it is very easy to distinguish a European from a Hindu by the style of dressing or an Indian woman from an oriental woman by the distinctive spot on the forehead of an Indian woman and a veil worn by Moslem woman. Fashion has taken the best part of the traditional costumes of every culture and sometimes this leads to propagandizing a definite cultural group. For instance, the brightest example is the increasing interest towards the Moslems and oriental culture nowadays.

#### 6 Conclusion

Fashion and identity are inseparable companions. Fashion with all its symbolism and attributes form an outstanding base for personal and cultural

identification. Identity is a necessary process of a healthy personality as it is a part of self-realization of a person that is so much required for finding a place in life of every person. Fashion has become a tool for achieving harmony with the inner world and a way of revealing or concealing peculiarities. Fashion possesses a specific meaning and the more diverse is the society around us the more fashion-trend will appear and surprise us. As long as it does not hurt people around fashion symbols are acceptable, nevertheless while thinking about fashion and identity it is necessary to remember the ethical side of the issue. Fashion and identity through it still remains a twofold issue but there are a lot of positive aspects one can enjoy and share with other people.

**Ex. 2. Write an argumentative essay choosing one of the topics written below.**

- 1 Dieting makes people fat.
- 2 Romantic love is a poor basis for marriage.
- 3 The war on terror has contributed to the growing abuse of human rights.
- 4 All citizens should be required by law to vote.
- 5 Both parents should assume equal responsibility in raising a child.
- 6 Participating in team sports helps to develop good character.
- 7 The production and sale of cigarettes should be made illegal.
- 8 People have become overly dependent on technology.
- 9 Censorship is sometimes justified.
- 10 Privacy is not the most important right.
- 11 Drunk drivers should be imprisoned on the first offense.
- 12 The lost art of letter-writing deserves to be revived.
- 13 Government and military personnel should have the right to strike.
- 14 Most study-abroad programs should be renamed «party abroad»: they are a waste of time and money
- 15 College students should have complete freedom to choose their own courses.
- 16 The primary mission of colleges and universities should be preparing students for the workforce.
- 17 Financial incentives should be offered to high school students who perform well on standardized tests.
- 18 All students in high school and college should be required to take at least two years of a foreign language.
- 19 College athletes should be exempted from regular class-attendance policies.
- 20 To encourage healthy eating, higher taxes should be imposed on soft drinks and junk food.

- 21 Students should not be required to take physical education courses.
- 22 To conserve fuel and save lives, the 55 miles-per-hour national speed limit should be restored.
- 23 All citizens under the age of 21 should be required to pass a driving education course before receiving a license to drive.
- 24 Any student caught cheating on an examination should be automatically dismissed from college.
- 25 Zoos are internment camps for animals and should be shut down.
- 26 Nontraditional students should be exempted from regular class-attendance policies.
- 27 At the end of each term, student evaluations of faculty should be posted online.
- 28 People who contribute to Social Security should have the right to choose how their money is invested.
- 29 Professional baseball players convicted of using performance-enhancing drugs should not be considered for induction into the Hall of Fame.
- 30 Any citizen who does not have a criminal record should be permitted to carry a concealed weapon.

### Paraphrasing

- ✓ When you write an essay, you use your original ideas and information you have learnt through experience. In addition, you often use information from print and electronic sources such as books, web sites, magazines, and newspapers. You can use such source information in two ways, and both ways show that you borrowed this information. The first way is to put **quotation marks** around the exact words.
- ✓ A second way of using information that is not yours is to **paraphrase**, or to re-state, another writer's words and ideas in your own words. A good paraphrase conveys the same ideas and information as the original writing, but in different words.

**Ex. 1. Read the original sentence. Then read the three possible paraphrases. Mark one B (Best), one TS (Too Similar), and one D (Different – or wrong – information).**

#### *Examining the Popularity of Julia Roberts' Characters*

1 Despite the differences in these characters, perhaps it is their similarities that have attracted so many millions of moviegoers to *Pretty Woman* and *Erin Brockovich*.

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\_\_\_\_\_ a) The main characters played by Julia Roberts in both *Pretty Woman* and *Erin Brockovich* were different yet possibly alike enough to draw many film patrons.

\_\_\_\_\_ b) Julia Roberts played Erin Brockovich and Vivian Ward, who were similar characters in two movies.

\_\_\_\_\_ c) Despite the distinction between these characters, one can draw a parallel that has attracted so many millions of moviegoers to *Pretty Woman* and *Erin Brockovich*.

#### *Baby Talk*

2 States of hunger, pain, or discomfort that cause crying and fussing are common at this stage.

\_\_\_\_\_ a) Babies normally cry and protest during this phase because they hurt in some way or are hungry.

\_\_\_\_\_ b) States of hunger or discomfort that cause crying and fussing are frequent at this stage.

\_\_\_\_\_ c) States of hunger, pain, or discomfort that cause crying and protest are uncommon at this stage.

#### *Marketing Health and Fitness*

3 Adolescents cannot escape the constant barrage of ads on television and radio and in magazines and newspapers. While some teenagers take this new-found knowledge and begin eating more appropriate foods and exercising regularly, others become obsessed with weight loss.

\_\_\_\_\_ a) There is no escape for adolescents from the constant onslaught of ads on television and radio and in magazines and newspapers. Although some take this new knowledge and begin eating better foods and exercising regularly, others become fixated on weight loss.

\_\_\_\_\_ b) Even though there are many opportunities for teenagers to learn about proper diet and exercise, many disregard this information and focus solely on losing weight.

\_\_\_\_\_ c) Advertisements are constantly telling adolescents to be supermodel-thin; as a result, many teenagers starve themselves to death.

**Ex. 2. Read these original sentences and passages. Circle what you consider to be the most important ideas. Then write your own paraphrase of the sentence or passage.**

#### *Job Skills*

1 One way in which career counselors try to match people with their ideal jobs is according to the broadly-defined categories of skills that the jobs require.

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Your paraphrase: \_\_\_\_\_

*Job Skills*

2 In fact, today's medical schools are giving almost as much weight to the interpersonal skills of their applicants as they do to their mental skills when evaluating these candidates for acceptance into their training programs.

Your paraphrase: \_\_\_\_\_

*Ten Thousands Teas*

3 The fresh tea leaves that are used for green tea are quickly steamed to halt bacterial and enzyme action common in fermentation.

Your paraphrase: \_\_\_\_\_

*Ten Thousands Teas*

4 These two processes are repeated until the leaves become almost transparent and start to yellow or redden along the edges, which is a sign of the beginnings of fermentation.

Your paraphrase: \_\_\_\_\_

*Two kinds of English*

5 Pronunciation is perhaps the first difference that people notice between American and British English. Some individual sounds are consistently different. For example, PoTAYto in American English comes out as poTAHto in British English. WateR in American English is pronounced as wateH in British English. TUna in American English comes out as TYUna in British English. Furthermore, certain whole words are pronounced quite differently. *Schedule* is pronounced with a «k» sound in American English but with a «sh» sound, as *shedule*, in British English. The stress in the word *aluminum* in American English is on the second syllable, so it is pronounced aLuminum by Americans. Stress in this same word in British English is on the third syllable, so British English speakers pronounce it aluMlnum. These pronunciation differences, though noticeable, do not impede real communication. In addition, neither American English nor British English has a better pronunciation than the other; they are simply different.

Your paraphrase: \_\_\_\_\_

*Why Adopt a Vegetarian Diet?*

6 One reason for becoming vegetarian is to prevent cruelty to animals. Animals, like humans, feel pain, stress, and fear. People cannot morally justify the pain and suffering of animals that are killed for food when adequate nutrition can be found in plant foods. Not only do animals experience these physical sensations when they are needlessly slaughtered for human consumption, but they are often treated cruelly prior to slaughter. Veal calves,

for example, are forced to live in extremely small cages no longer than their bodies so they cannot move and create unwanted muscle. They are then killed when they are just twelve to sixteen weeks old so that their weak, immature muscles will produce soft meat.

Your paraphrase: \_\_\_\_\_

### Summarizing

✓ Another way to include information from another source is by **summarizing**. A summary is a shortened version, in your own words, of someone else's ideas.

#### Study these examples of good and poor summarizing.

*Original (190 words)*

Selling a product successfully in another country often requires changes in the original product. Domino's Pizza offers mayonnaise and potato pizza in Tokyo and pickled ginger pizza in India. Heinz varies its ketchup recipe to satisfy the needs of specific markets. In Belgium and Holland, for example, the ketchup is not as sweet as it is in the United States. When Haagen-Dazs served up one of its most popular American flavors, Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough, to British customers, they left it sitting in supermarket freezers. What the premium ice-cream maker learned is that chocolate chip cookies are not popular in Great Britain, and children do not have a history of snatching raw dough from the bowl. For this reason, the company had to develop flavors that would sell in Great Britain. Because dairy products are not part of Chinese diets, Frito-Lay took the cheese out of Chee-tos in China. Instead, the company sells Seafood Chee-tos. Without a doubt, these products were so successful in these foreign lands only because the company realized that it was wise to do market research and make fundamental changes in the products.

Main ideas to keep:

- 1 Companies must change their products to succeed.
- 2 Examples of companies that did this: Domino's, Heinz, Haagen-Dazs, Frito-Lay.

*Good Summary (31 words)*

Companies must adapt their products if they want to do well in foreign markets. Many well-known companies, including Domino's, Heinz, Haagen-Daz, and Frito-Lay, have altered their products and proved this point.

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- 1 It covers the main ideas.
- 2 It is a true summary, not an exact repeat of the specific examples.
- 3 It includes some new grammar, for example:  
Original text: often requires changes.  
Summary: modal is used: «companies must adapt».
- 4 It includes some new vocabulary, for example:  
Original text: Specific country names.  
Summary: «many well-known companies».

*Poor Summary (174 words)*

Changes in a product are important if a company wants to sell it successfully in another country. For example, Domino's Pizza offers mayonnaise and potato pizza in Tokyo and pickled ginger pizza in India. In addition, Heinz has changed its ketchup recipe to satisfy the needs of specific markets. In Belgium and Holland the ketchup is less sweet. When Haagen-Dazs served up one of its most popular American flavors, Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough, to British customers, the British customers left it sitting in supermarket freezers. The luxury ice-cream maker learned that chocolate chip cookies are not popular in Great Britain, and children do not take uncooked dough from the bowl. For this reason, the company developed flavors to sell in Great Britain. Since dairy products are not usually eaten in China, Frito-Lay removed the cheese from Chee-tos in China. In its place, the company has Seafood Chee-tos. Certainly, these items were so successful in these countries only because the company was smart enough to do market research and implement fundamental changes in the products.

- 1 It is almost as long as the original and, therefore, not really a summary.
- 2 It includes almost the same vocabulary, for example:  
Original text: the premium ice-cream maker.  
Summary: the luxury ice-cream maker (This is plagiarism!).  
Main idea to keep:
- 3 It includes almost the same grammar, for example:  
Original text: For this reason, the company had to develop flavors that would sell in Great Britain.  
Summary: For this reason, the company developed flavors to sell in Great Britain. (This is plagiarism!)

**Synthesizing**

✓ A **synthesis** is a combination of information from two or more sources. When you synthesize, you take information from different sources and blend them smoothly into your paragraph.

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**Ex. 1. Study these examples of good and poor synthesizing.**

*Source A (81 words)*

Switzerland is a great example of linguistic diversity because there are three different national languages. People in the central and northern areas speak German. People in the western area speak French. People in the southeastern area of the country speak Italian. Most Swiss can speak more than one language. One interesting fact is that the name of the country on its coins and stamps is not in any of these languages. Instead, «*Helvetia*», the Latin name for this country, is used. Claudia Acevedo, Argentina.

Main ideas to keep:

- 1 Geographical areas of Switzerland speak different languages.
- 2 Central and northern regions = German.
- 3 Western part = French; southeastern region = Italian.
- 4 The Latin name for Switzerland is used as well!

*Source B (68 words)*

You might think that most people in Switzerland speak the same language because it is a rather small country. However, you would be wrong. Yes, the country is tiny, but there are four national languages. German is spoken by more people than any other language. The second most commonly spoken language is French, and Italian is third. A very small percentage of the people speak Romansch. *Najmuddin bin Faisal, Malaysia.*

- 1 Most Swiss speak German, then French, then Italian, and finally a few people in Switzerland speak Romansch.

*Good synthesis (110 words)*

Although Switzerland is a small country, several languages are spoken there. In fact, this tiny country has four national languages. The most commonly spoken language is German, which is used in the central and northern regions. The second most widely spoken language is French, which is used in the western area of the country. The third most-commonly used language is Italian, which is spoken in the southeastern area of Switzerland. A fourth language, Romansch, is spoken by only a very small percentage of the population. Ironically, the name for Switzerland on Swiss currency is not in any of these languages. Instead, *Helvetia*, the Latin term for this country, is used.

Main ideas to keep:

- 1 It has ideas from both sources (for example: Source A: German is spoken in central and northern regions; Source B: the most common language is German).

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2 The ideas are woven together. (The most commonly spoken language is German, which is used in the central and northern regions).

3 The sequence of the material is logical (first, second, third, fourth most common languages).

*Poor synthesis (88 words)*

Switzerland is tiny, but there are four national languages. The languages in order of usage are: German, French, Italian, and Romansch. Portuguese and Greek are not spoken in this country. People in the western area speak French. People in the southeastern area of the country speak Italian. People in the central and northern areas speak German. One interesting fact is that the name of the country on its coins and stamps is not in any of these languages. Instead, *Helvetia*, the Latin name for this country, is used.

1 The ideas are not woven together very well. It is easy to see where one source ends and another begins. Source 2 information ends after The languages in order of usage are: German, French, Italian, and Romansch. Source 1 information takes up the rest of the paragraph.

2 The third sentence is an unrelated idea about Portuguese and Greek that is not from either source.

3 The sequence of the languages by geographical areas is illogical because it does not match the list of languages given at the beginning of the paragraph.

**Ex. 2. Imagine that you are a student in a sociology class. In an essay of five to eight paragraphs, write your answer to the essay question below using a word processing computer program. In your essay, synthesize information from a variety of sources.**

**Sociology Exam Question.** In a cause / effect essay, discuss the relationship between globalization and human rights. Briefly define globalization and human rights. Then explain how globalization has impacted human rights around the world.

To develop your essay, follow these Basic Steps for Synthesizing.

**Step 1:** Read the material – Pull together ideas about globalization and human rights from a number of different sources, including books, print journal articles, and Internet sources. Ask a reference librarian at your school to assist you in finding relevant sources for your essay.

*Remember to write down all the information you need about the sources to properly give credit.*

Source 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Source 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Source 3: \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2:** Choose the important ideas from each source – As you read about your topic in the sources, you will notice that some of the same themes reappear in more than one source of information. Decide which are the most important and relevant pieces of information and list them below.

Source 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Source 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Source 3: \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 3:** Group together the ideas that are connected and that support each other – Place the ideas you listed in Step 2 into categories that fit together. Your list of ideas for each group may be longer or shorter than the lines provided.

*Group 1*  
Main Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_

*Group 2*  
Main Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_

*Group 3*  
Main Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_

*Group 4*  
Main Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Idea \_\_\_\_\_

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**Step 4:** Combine the ideas in each group into sentences, using your paraphrasing skills – Using a word processing program, type the ideas you categorized in Step 3, combining the ideas in each of the groups into sentences.

**Step 5:** Organize the sentences into logical paragraphs and combine them into one continuous piece of writing, using transition expressions. Be sure to include an introduction, well-constructed body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Do not forget to include any original ideas you have, too – Revise and develop the sentences you created, organizing them coherently into an essay.

**Step 6:** Check your work for accuracy and smoothness. Add transition words where they are needed – Check your essay again for any revisions needed, and then turn it in to your teacher.

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Установа адукацыі  
"Гомельскі дзяржаўны ўніверсітэт  
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РЕПОЗИТОРИЙ ГГУ ИИ

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**THE ESSAY**

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**ОСНОВЫ ПИСЬМЕННОЙ РЕЧИ:**

**ЭССЕ**

*(эссе, описывающее причинно-следственные связи;  
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