AP English 12

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**Term/Quotation/Effect**

Information taken and modified from AP List Serve 2/11/03

Here is a typical student sentence which responds to the 1988 Frederick Douglas prompt (AP Lang) which asks students to analyze the way the author uses language (particularly syntax, imagery, and figurative language) to make his point.

“Frederick Douglas uses syntax, imagery, and figurative language to eloquently make his point about slavery.”……

The students have written nothing about loneliness, separation and the evident anger.

Here is the sentence rewritten:

“Frederick Douglas uses imagery to convey the utter loneliness a slave feels, and through figurative language and syntax, he underlines the desperation and anger that slavery breeds in those enslaved.”

You must write a topic sentence contains the EFFECTS achieved by the techniques.

You are NEVER to mention a technique or term unless it is coupled with an EXAMPLE/QUOTATION from the passage and an explanation as to the EFFECT achieved by the technique/term/quotation. I sometimes have students highlight their essays: one color for the term, one color for the quotation, and one color for the effect. It is then easy for them to see when they leave out the effect achieved by the term or technique.

**Using Quotations**

To demonstrate how quotations should be used, consider the following examples:

WEAK

When Jerry says, “You have everything, and now you want this bench. Are these the things men fight for?” it shows that he is trying to intimidate Peter by making fun of this honor.

STRONG

Attacking Peter’s sense of honor, Jerry orders him off the bench and tauntingly asks if a mere park bench “are the things men fight for” in Peter’s small world.

WEAK

When Peter finally says, “Get up and fight,” Jerry inquires, “Like a man?” This shows that jerry is attacking Peter’s sense of manliness.

STRONG

Jerry, now desperate to fulfill his suicidal mission, resorts to attacks on Peter’s manliness, provoking him into fighting “like a man.”

WEAK

In responding to jerry’s comments about having a male child, Peter says, “It’s a matter of genetics, not manhood… you monster.” It is obvious that peter is angry at Jerry’s insinuations.

STRONG

Although peter knows that the gender of his children is “a matter of genetics, not manhood,” he nevertheless lashes out at Jerry’s insults, leaving the reader to doubt Peter’s sense of security.

TIPS:

* 1. Try imbedding the quotation in your own sentence.
  2. Make sure the quotation never stands alone; always include the significance.
  3. If you use a long quotation, indent all lines of a quotation and separate it from the rest of the paper with spaces.
  4. All quotations are not created equal. Choose carefully which words you wish to quote.
  5. Do NOT use a quotation as a topic sentence. Topic sentences are part of YOUR structure and should be your unique thoughts and wording.
  6. Remember that a mere quotation does not show anything, prove anything, or make anything obvious or evident. YOU, as the writer, have that job.