COMP

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Definition

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1   Understand how to read definition essays

2   Define a term through distinction from related terms

3   Define a term by examining denotation and connotation

4   Define a term through etymology

5   Define a term through cultural and philosophical analysis

6   Write, revise, and edit an extended definition

Understanding How to Read Definition Essays

- Consider the rhetorical situation
  - *Purpose - Identify the point of the definition*
  - *Audience - Determine the target audience and relate them with the term being defined*
  - *Topic - Specify the term and the reason for its usage*
- Definition-writing strategies
  - *Denotative*
  - *Connotative*
  - *Etymological*

Define a Term Through Distinction from Related Terms

- Research paper on the problems of human trafficking and slavery associated with trends in globalization by Shon Bogar
  - *Compares and contrasts human trafficking with the meaning of related terms*
  - *Extends the definition at the end of the introduction*
  - *Offers formal definition referring to official sources*
  - *Restates a complex legal definition in understandable terms for the readers*

Define a Term by Examining Denotation and Connotation

- Paige Louter
  - *Analyzed the denotative and connotative meanings of asceticism linked with religion and philosophy*
  - *Introduced the concept of asceticism with an anecdote*
  - *Offered informal definition and historical examples to help in understanding*
  - *Pointed to current displays of asceticism*

Define a Term by Examining Denotation and Connotation

- *Extended definition by finding the motivation behind the practice*

- *Contrasted motivations of past ascetics with current ascetics*

- *Brought the extended definition to a conclusion*

Define a Term Through Etymology

- David Schelhass defining "deft" and "daft" by examining their roots
  - *Introduces the topic with an anecdote*
  - *Describes the history of daft*
  - *Compares and contrasts the words*
  - *Closes with a reflection*

Define a Term Through Cultural and Philosophical Analysis

- Simson L. Garfinkle
  - *Analyzes how the nature and use of Wikipedia affect recognition of the truth*
  - *Makes philosophical distinctions to analyze the cultural significance of Wikipedia*
  - *Uses strategies to develop an extended definition*

Guidelines to Write, Revise, and Edit a Process Essay

- Select a topic
- Identify what is known
- Gather information
- Compress what is known
- Get organized
- Draft
- Improve the ideas, organization, and voice
- Edit by addressing these issues
- Publish

SUMMARY

- Chapter helps one to read and write brief definitions of terms

  - *Main purpose is to help understand and write longer*

- Definitions clarify and deepen readers' understanding of terms

  - *Use examples, illustrations, comparisons, anecdotes and historical information*