

AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

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THE ART OF ESSAY WRITING

by

Claude Lockhart Clark © 2003



Essay writing skills are employed in college written exams and workforce advancements. Essays are important in other endeavors as well.

One of the first steps in developing an essay is to make sure your essay has a suitable LIMITED SUBJECT or suitable TARGET SUBJECT Example:

General Subject: African Art

Limited Subject: Spirituality In African Images

Target Subject: The Different Types of African Ancestral Images

General Subject: African Ancestral Images

Limited Subject: Ashanti Ancestral Stools

Target Subject: The Blackened Stools (ancestral stools of Ashanti chiefs)

Research by gathering information about your subject from different sources: Lecture notes, Internet, books and manuscripts, etc.

After you have narrowed your subject down, you need to outline the POINTS that you wish to cover in your essay. Start with an opening sentence or TOPIC SENTENCE:

Topic Sentence: Stools are a necessary apart of Ashanti culture playing an important role at birth, during puberty and even death.

Point- Stools identify the ownership.

Detail- certain kinds of images/symbols carved in the stool identify the type of person owning that stool.

Point- ancestral stools are not carved. They are identified and designated....

Detail- a person may have several personal stools commissioned during the course of his, or her life time all of which are for the purpose of living; never for the purpose death.

Detail- after death one of the owner's personal stools is designated to be an ancestral stool.

Next write a rough draft, then re-write your final version.

Expository Paragraph Outline



A Kate Kinsella Form, San Francisco State University

Paragraph Title: _____

Paragraph Topic: _____

Topic Sentence: _____

A. Point _____

1. Detail _____

2. Detail _____

B. Point _____

1. Detail _____

2. Detail _____

C. Point _____

1. Detail _____

2. Detail _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

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BOOK SEARCH

“Working Bibliography”

1. Author(s): _____

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Publishing House, Name & Date: _____

2. Author(s): _____

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3. Author(s): _____

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INTERNET SEARCH

“Working Bibliography”

1. Web site: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

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2. Web site: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

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3. Web site: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

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Title: _____

Author: _____

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SLIDE RECOGNITION FILL-IN FORM

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