

Evaluating Essays

Read the following essay written by KT. Complete the following activities.

Identify: Expository or Persuasive

Highlight: Thesis, transitions, justifiers, a quote, an example, a statistic.

Circle: Ten words to demonstrate strong vocabulary choices.

Underline: Sentences which begin in a different way (gerund, adverb, preposition)

Compound sentences (S, conj S or S;S or S; SC, S)

Complex sentence (LB, S)

Sentence with Commas in a Series (A, B, conj C or A, B, C noun)

Examples of figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, idiom)

Check: Punctuation (end marks at the end of each sentence), Spelling and Capitalization

Slowly, I drug my body up the stairs to the plane that had been awaiting me. I reached the fuselage of the plane with sweat streaming down my face and my hands clinched in fists of rage. I made my way to my seat and got accommodated as best I could in the situation I was in. When we were airborne, I checked my equipment to make sure my gear was ready. Soon the door swung ajar and I was first in line for the jump. I glanced down and took a leap of faith into the blue. I enjoyed the freefall, but at the time to open my chute I jerked at the line, but it didn't open. I felt a chill go down my spine and my life started to flash before my very eyes. My mind went back to my childhood and I remembered my school experiences. I thought about the many extra-curricular activities I participated in and how important they were in my life. The importance of the extra-curricular activities I participate in are that they look fantastic on a college application, teach character, and improve self-esteem.

To begin with, my extra-curricular activities would look outstanding to any college I apply to. A recent study done by Duke University stated that you are 75% more likely to go to the college you want by doing extra curricular activities. Basically, this statistic means that you have a better chance to excel in life by participating in extra-curricular activities. Doing them is not a big hassle, but on the other hand, they do offer a big pay off in the long run. Obviously, a little goes a long way in this case.

In addition, building character is also a benefit of extra-curricular activities. As General George Patton once said, "Always do more than is expected of you." To clarify

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this quote's significance, extra-curricular activities are doing more than is expected and they teach character traits like citizenship and responsibility. These teachings come to us in a direct way and affect us in every way you could imagine. Clearly, extra-curricular activities are going over the top for teaching all types of character traits.

Last but not least, doing the little extra makes you feel good about yourself. For example, in this movie I watched called "Depression" the main character gets over his depression by volunteering and starting to feel good about himself. This shows that it will make you feel good about what you did; therefore raising your self-esteem. Helping each other will be beneficial not only for you, but also for other people, too. As you can see, extra-curricular activities are heart-warming.

All in all, extra-curricular activities look good on college applications. Also, they teach character and raise self-esteem. Snapping back out of my trance, I began to panic once again. Suddenly, I remembered that there was a reserve chute. I prayed and tugged at the string, only to find that the chute appeared. I said, "Thank you," to whoever had helped me and floated back down to safety.