

Evaluating Essays

Read the following essay written by Lindsay. 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

The day had finally come! I was about to embark on an incredible summer. I was going to spend the next eight weeks at a sleepaway camp in Pennsylvania for the first time. I garbed myself in my camp t-shirt and green shorts. As my family arrived at the bus stop, sweat emanated from my forehead, chills crept down my spine, and my legs began to shake uncontrollably. I uttered a tearful good-bye to my family and mutely took the first seat on the bus. It had just struck me that I wouldn't be seeing my family or doing anything that I normally did for the next two months. I wouldn't even be doing my extra-curricular activities for the next sixty days. That was going to be something I would miss terribly. The extra-curricular activities students participate in are beneficial because they can relieve stress, help you become a well-rounded person, and they teach cooperation.

To begin with, a good way to relieve stress is to participate in extra-curricular activities. Today in society, most people are stressed. I know that sometimes I feel like if I receive another homework assignment I will start screaming and never stop. Thank goodness I have sleepaway camp to look forward to. At times, that is the only thing that keeps me going. Unfortunately, the poor guy in "The Scream" by Edward Munch obviously doesn't have extra-curricular activities to relieve his stress. If he got the chance to, maybe he could take his hands away from his face, stop pulling out his hair, and his blood pressure would drop 100 points. As you can see, extra-curricular activities are sometimes the only thing that keeps a person sane.

Write On!



In addition, extra-curricular activities make a person more well-rounded. Since the beginning of recorded history, teens have enjoyed participating in activities outside of school and adults have enjoyed participating in activities outside of work. A perfect example of this would be Benjamin Franklin. If he hadn't founded the first library, invented bi-focal glasses, or discovered electricity when flying a kite, then we would not be where we are today. All of these things were done outside his job. If he had just settled for status quo, then our world would be lacking in many areas. Obviously, participating in extra-curricular activities can not only make a person well-rounded, but also change the lives of many people.

Furthermore, participating in extra-curricular activities improves a person's ability to work with others. Earlier, in my language arts class, we read a story entitled "Raymond's Run." The main character, Squeaky, was responsible for caring for her brother who had mental disabilities. The activity she enjoyed was running. She was competitive and love participating in races. When she learned that he disabled brother was a great runner, she set aside her competitiveness and began to cooperate with her arch rival to train her brother. Clearly, competing in her extra-curricular activities helped Squeaky to become more cooperative with others.

To conclude, extra-curricular activities can relieve stress and help someone become well-rounded. Also, they can teach cooperation. As my sister tapped me on the shoulder, I woke up and peered out the window. I had slept the entire way. I was incredible excited and knew this summer would be amazing!