

Common Writing Issues

Hernandez, 2012

Confusing Words

Who-subject, he/Whom-object, him

Your-possession/You're-you are

Their-poss "he" "I" /There- place "here"/They're- they are

Its- everything that's not it is/It's- it is

Woman = 1/Women= >1

Then= sequence/Than= comparison

Precede/Proceed

Affect-change/Effect-result

Judgment- no "E"

Lay- needs an object/Lie- can be done alone

Raise/Rise- same as above

To- preposition/Too- also/Two- between one & three

Less/Fewer

Just for fun: jewelry, realtor, mischievous, nuclear, across, athlete, regardless...irr

AVOID AVOID AVOID AVOID AVOID

Contractions- don't should read do not

Word Choice- slang, dead words, personal pronouns

"Thing"

"the reader"

"SAYS"

"THIS SHOWS"

Repeating the same idea over- the same idea again again

Listing thesis - x is y because of 1,2,3.

Hyperbole- everyone, all the time, forever

MLA errors- day month year & " " ().

Wordy, wordy, wordy

Referring to authors by first name?

Spelling the characters, author, or title wrong!

Becoming too close with the Thesaurus.

Thesis Issues

Thesis = topic + idea + so what

Thesis = A + B

where A = topic + idea & B= so what

Basically, what are you writing about and why do we care?

FOCUS

RTT

Thesis needs to match the rest of the paper

Thesis **MUST** respond to the prompt

Thesis is **THE MOST IMPORTANT SENTENCE** in your entire essay- give it some thought!

Body Paragraph Issues

Topic Sentence- have one!

Introduce quotes

LOGIC- think about what you are writing! Geeze!

Length of quotes: Analysis > Quote

Consider appropriateness of topic for assignment

RTT

SDT

ALP

RTT

MLA

FOCUS

RTT

Adjectives should agree with tone

S/V agreement

Extract pieces from quotes/use only what you need/cite all of it

Grammar & Mechanics

End with preposition

Split infinitive

Not only/But also *ALWAYS* go together

Comma- lists, between two indep clauses, app phrases

Colon- lists

Semi-Colon- join two indep clauses with transition word comma

Apostrophe- contractions (no no) or possession

Period- they go at the end of a sentence

Introduce quote, "quote goes here" (citation).

For citation or MLA help: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Changes for Quarter 3

Move MATTER to conclusion paragraph

All writing in body paragraphs will now be 100% lit based

Essays have moved from the standard ONE PARAGRAPH to a multi-paragraph structure

Review pages 7-15 in your COMPOSITION HANDBOOK

Introduction Paragraph

Begins with a broad statement about TOPIC

Ties TOPIC to BACKGROUND of paper

Gives BACKGROUND that leads to

THESIS

From general to specific format



Body Paragraphs

Consider these your building blocks to support your thesis.

Topic Sentence- what are you writing about?

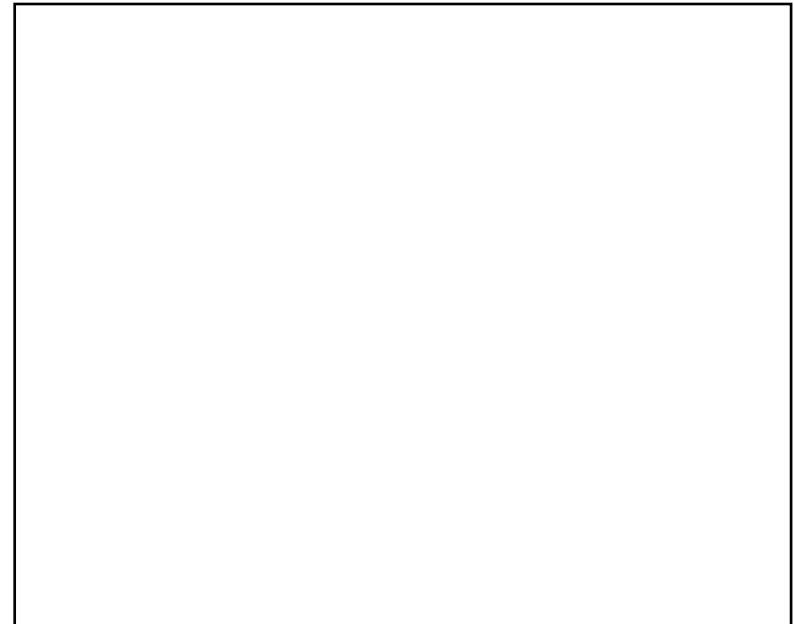
Subtopic- relate TS to CD

Concrete Detail- quote

Commentary- "SAY" & "MEAN"

repeat from subtopic

Conclusion- make point



Conclusion Paragraph

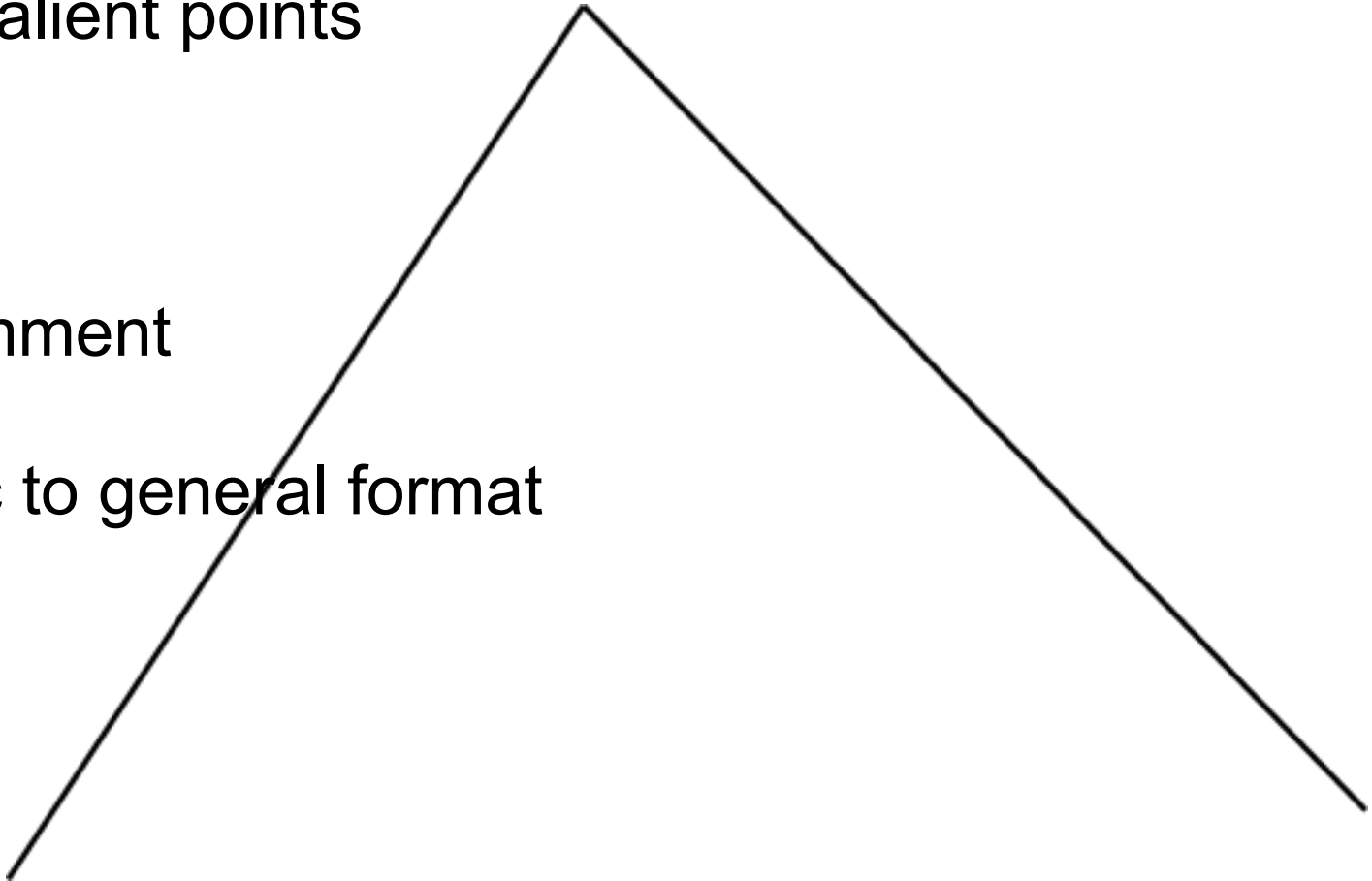
Restate Thesis

Summarize salient points

"MATTER"

Insightful comment

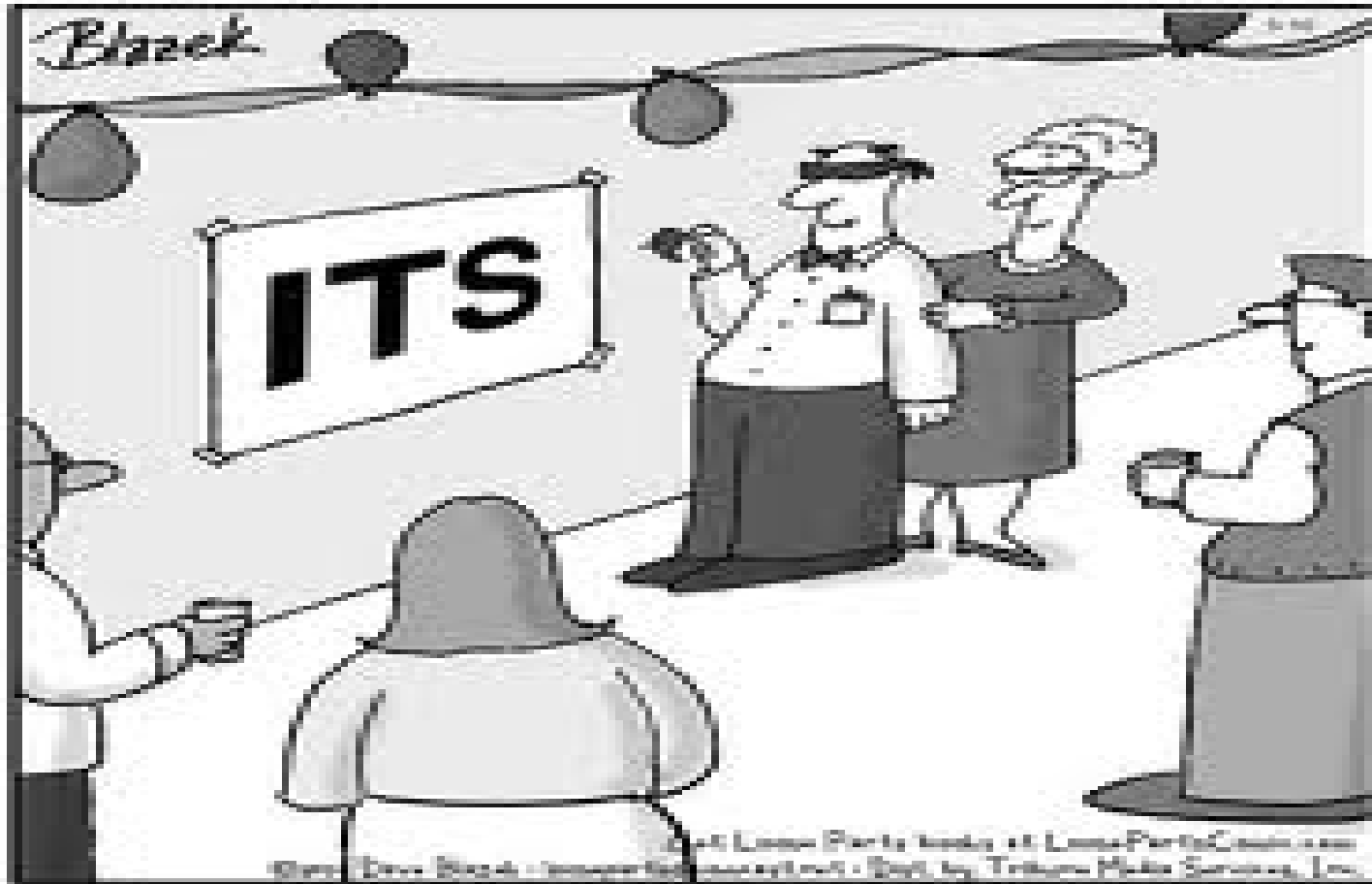
From specific to general format



Questions & Comments

LOOSE PARTS

DAVE BLAZEK



The games get pretty crazy
at English teachers' parties.