How to Write a Making Connections Paragraph

HOW DO I WRITE A MAKING CONNECTIONS PARAGRAPH?

Your task is to write a single paragraph response that makes connections between information presented in a short reading passage and your own ideas, experiences, or knowledge.

Your paragraph should be one-half to two-thirds of a page, typed or written nicely in ink and double-spaced.

STEP ONE:
Read the text provided slowly and carefully at least twice to ensure you understand the content. Annotate it for unfamiliar words and ideas that it brings to mind while you read. Box the unfamiliar words and define them on the page. Underline sentences that make you think about your life, experiences, observations, and/or studies; write your ideas on the edge of the page.

STEP TWO:
Read over the assignment question; what is the question really asking?

STEP THREE:
Make a T-Chart you can use to jot notes related to the focus question. On one side, insert notes directly from the passage and your own ideas and knowledge on the other side. This will ensure that your paragraph makes connections between the text and your own ideas.

STEP FOUR:
Choose which points in your T-chart you will use in your response. Choose those points that best answer the focus question. Remember, the key is making connections between your ideas and those presented in the text.

STEP FIVE:
Begin your single paragraph response with a single sentence answer to the focus question; this is your opinion sentence. You might write, “A bear and a train are surprisingly similar” or “A bear resembles a train in three ways.”

STEP SIX:
Continue your paragraph with a sentence or two outlining an idea presented in the passage, then make a connection to your own ideas, knowledge, or experiences. “The Little Bear Train travels through incredibly dense Canadian forest, just like most Canadian bears live deep in the woods away from towns and campgrounds.”

STEP SEVEN:
Repeat step six until you have made at least THREE connections.

STEP EIGHT:
Conclude your paragraph by rephrasing your first sentence.

STEP NINE:
Edit your rough draft yourself and then ask someone else to take a look and give written suggestions for improvement.

STEP TEN:
Make corrections and changes to improve your written paragraph. Submit both your rough and final drafts together with your evaluation scheme.
MAKING CONNECTIONS PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

Student Author: _____________________________
Editor(s): _________________________________

Points Possible
1 rough draft is provided with evidence of quality editing
1 assignment uses proper paragraph format
1 first sentence clearly states the topic of the paragraph in a straight-forward manner that answers the focus question
1 last sentence restates the opinion or topic in different words
5 final draft reflects correct spelling and grammar
6 paragraph provides at least THREE ideas, facts, or information taken directly from the passage and connects EACH piece to the student author’s own ideas, experiences, or knowledge
10 writing style uses appropriate vocabulary, persuasive tone, uses a variety of types of sentences, no run-on sentences or awkward phrasing, sentences consistently make sense, no use of slang or contractions

/25 points Comments: