Rationale for TRAINING Portfolio #1

Title: ***This Monster I Know***
Grade: 12
Year released: 2007

Reflective Piece Title: "Over the Years"

__2__ Content (2, 2, 2)

The writing attempts to establish a narrowed purpose and communicate with the audience by connecting reading experiences with writing; however, there are lapses in the focus and purpose of analyzing writing development through literacy experiences. Some examples are provided, but details are repetitious throughout. The writing demonstrates some awareness of audience's needs. Connections to literacy are only included in paragraph four.

__2__ Structure (2, 2, 2)

Overall, organization is logical, though paragraphs lapse in coherence. Writing demonstrates some transitions (e.g., "the most important way," "therefore"). The majority of sentences show attempts of complexity rather than control (e.g., "Not that I enjoyed the cheap romance. . .").

__2__ Conventions (2, 2, 2)

Some control is evident. Some errors (e.g., "I have went done" and "without even noticing it my vocabulary") do not interfere with communication.

Instructional Implications:

Lessons that may derive from the use of this sample include

- the demonstration of how the writer needs to make stronger, more focused literacy connections to analyze and evaluate writing growth.
- the demonstration of the need for specific examples through reflective idea development rather than a generalized description of reading/writing experiences.

Personal OR Literary Piece Title: "This Monster I Know"

__2__ Content (3, 2, 2)

The writing establishes and maintains a focused purpose. The writer's intention (the rage) is evident from the beginning to the end. There is some idea development, but the poem is not fully developed, so that the audience's needs are met.

__2__ Structure (2, 2, 2)

The poem represents an attempt at the genre, but it lacks both the economy of language and other characteristics evident in poetry. The poem sacrifices depth of meaning to achieve rhyme (e.g., ". . . what's right" and "secured tonight"; "I don't mean to be this way," and "Where the rage comes from I can't say"). The writing demonstrates an attempt to invert words for poetic effect, but the attempt is not successful (e.g., "The evil I'm most petrified of being a part of me" and "My worst enemy, in a battle with no end").

__3__ Conventions (3, 3, 2)

The poem demonstrates control of grammar and usage, but correctness suffers because commas are used incorrectly, often within the rhyming couplets of the poem. There is evidence of acceptable, effective word choice.

Instructional Implications:

Lessons that may derive from the use of this sample include

- the demonstration of how forced rhyme may limit meaning and idea development of a poem. Teachers may ask students how the poem could be better developed in regard to purpose and audience and how forced rhyme inhibits meaning.

Transactive Piece Title: "Mechanical Engineering"

__2__ Content (2, 2, 2)

The writing attempts to establish and maintain a purpose (e.g., ". . . mechanical engineers are so important. . . "), but as the writing continues, the purpose shifts to how to become an engineer. Still, there is some sense of the audience's needs being met through idea development. Relevant job information is provided.

__2__ Structure (2, 2, 2)

The writing demonstrates logical organization, but there are lapses in coherence (e.g., when writing discusses duties and responsibilities *before* discussing aptitudes and abilities). Some transitional elements are evident through the sub-headings. The writing attempts complexity; however, control is not evident.

__2__ Conventions (3, 2, 2)

The writing demonstrates control of grammar and usage with few errors. Word choice is simplistic (e.g., "there are," "it is," "that"). Writing attempts to document source information, but mislabels as "sources as additional information." The writing demonstrates some control in correctness.

Instructional Implications:

Lessons that may derive from the use of this sample include

- the demonstration of how including too much information can cause lapses in focus and purpose.
- the demonstration of how resource information should be documented more appropriately than is evident in this piece.

Transactive Piece Title (with analytical or technical focus):
"Yin and Yang"

__2__ Content (2, 2, 2)

The writing attempts to address and establish purpose (e.g., "If you haven't read. . . I'm sure that you have heard"). However, the reader is not aware of a narrowed purpose. The opening is misleading (e.g., from first paragraph, reader expects to read about the "twists and turns" of the novel; however, the piece develops around symbolism) and suggests the lack of authentic purpose. The writing demonstrates some idea development through the comparison of characters.

__2__ Structure (2, 2, 2)

The structure distracts reader's attention as the organization of the writing is logical, but lapses in coherence integrating plot and analysis. The writing demonstrates some effective transitional elements (e.g., "on the other hand"). The writing exhibits the use of simple sentences and an attempt at complexity. However, there is a lack of control of that complexity.

__2__ Conventions (3, 2, 2)

The writing demonstrates control of grammar and usage. Word choice is acceptable and appropriate (e.g., "aesthetically pleasing shape") but is sometimes imprecise (e.g., ". . . jumped out at me"). Errors include misuse of commas, inappropriate documentation, and failure to underline book title. However, the errors do not interfere with communication.

Instructional Implications:

Lessons that may derive from the use of this sample include

- the demonstration of how the student attempts to merge a writing-to-demonstrate-learning sample (the analysis of the symbols within *The Da Vinci Code* for no apparent reason other than to analyze symbolism) with writing for publication (first paragraph attempts to set up a larger context but is not completely successful). Teachers may ask students how this writer could have revised to make the piece more appropriate for publication.

- the demonstration of the need for text support for examples rather than a description of the plot points.

- the demonstration of the need for appropriate documentation.

2007 Training #1 Gr. 12

2006 PORTFOLIO SCORING STUDY*

KENTUCKY WRITING PORTFOLIO
Table of Contents
Grade 12

Student Signature Sheet Included and Signed (Y) N **(Circle One)**

Fill In Number Selected	Category/Descriptor	Content area At least one piece must come from a content area other than English/language arts	Page
1	***Reflective Writing***		
	Title: Over The Years	English/language arts	1-3
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	Title: This Monster I Know	English	4-5
1	***Transactive Writing*** *Various Real-World Forms*		
	Title: Mechanical Engineering Career Page	Career/Work Experience	6-8
1	***Transactive Writing with an analytical or technical focus*** *Various Real-World Forms*		
	Title: Yin and Yang	English	9-12
4	**Total (must equal 4)**		

**Portfolio table of contents page reconfigured for 2006 scoring study*

STUDENT SIGNATURE SHEET

(Required in Each Portfolio)

Please read the Note to Students and Teachers below before signing the following statements.

Required Verification Signature

The pieces in this portfolio are my own work. I am the author of all pieces in my portfolio. I may have talked about my work (conferenced) with my teacher, family, and friends, but I have made any changes and corrections myself. I did my own writing, typing, and/or word processing (unless otherwise indicated by a teacher's signature in the box below labeled "IEP/504 Plan Adaptations").

_____ _____

Student Signature

IEP/504 Plan Adaptations (requires teacher signature):

Teacher Signature

Optional Permission

I agree to allow my portfolio to be photocopied for use by others outside my school as an example of student work. I understand that my name, the names of my school and town, and other identifying information I may have used in my writing will be removed before my portfolio is copied.

_____ _____

Student Signature (optional)

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Optional Permission: The use of actual student portfolios is critical in teacher training and is essential for quality control checks during statewide rescoring activities. Students are requested, but not required, to give permission for this purpose and should sign the optional student signature above if they agree.

Please note that portfolios are included in any statewide rescoring activities even if neither statement is signed.

Over the Years

by:

L_____ R_____

Looking back at my life I now realize that there are many things that I should have done differently. There are many situations that I have handled inappropriately and some that I have handled well. Although I have not always put my education first I do believe that this is one area that I have shown success in.

I believe that the progress that I have had in school over the years has been for the most part due to the time that I spend reading. I may not always read history books or even the classics of literature but it has still helped me tremendously. I mostly enjoy books that are historical fiction. These books do contain some facts but mostly they are just adventure stories that are centered around some event in the past. I have learned many interesting historical facts from these stories and have even been able to implement this knowledge into classes and into everyday conversation.

Other books that I find that I enjoy are those about personal struggles from within and with relationships. Not that I enjoy the cheap romance novels with the damsel in distress and the hero that sweeps her off her feet. I like a story that I can relate to some of the struggles that I have encountered in my own life. Seeing how the characters in the book handle things often provides me with valuable insight on the way that I handled the situation and gives me ideas on how to solve the problem the next time that this issue arises. These are just a couple of the minor ways that reading has helped to have a positive influence on my life.

The most important way that I feel that reading has affected my life is that it has made me a stronger writer. Without even noticing it my vocabulary has increased exponentially in the last few years with my progression into more intense and advanced works of literature. I have learned how to use many different literary elements to improve both the quality and appeal of my writing. I feel that reading is the only way for a person to succeed in making true advancements in these areas. Instead of setting in a boring English class and trying to learn from a teacher, you can read a book that is enjoyable to you. No matter what type of book that you may select your vocabulary and knowledge of basic literary skills will improve subconsciously. Even before I studied grammar and the parts of speech I could simply read a sentence and pick out problems with the mechanics. This is something that is learned quickly and naturally by simply diving into a few good books. It is also easier to identify which topics will be the most interesting to readers once you have tried to get into a few books that did a poor job at providing an interesting opening chapter. If you can't grab the reader's interest in the first few seconds then you have lost them for good. Therefore you can easily learn the importance of a good opening paragraph and get some excellent ideas on how to make your writing more interesting.

I know that there have been many times in my life when I have went down the wrong road and made several bad decisions along the way. Reading, however, has not been one of them. The simple things that I have learned from different books over the years have helped me out in more ways than I could possibly ever mention. If everyone could realize this, I have no doubt that we would be for the most part a better society. Even without the advantages of a formal education reading helps to teach us lessons that we can implement in our everyday lives. I hope that even the person who takes the time to read this reflection will walk away from it with the feeling that they have learned something from it, no matter how small that piece of knowledge may be.

This Monster I Know

There is a monster deep down inside,
No one knows where he hides.
He is terrible with deadly eyes,
Tears cascade like rain as he cries.
So full of hate that he forgets what's right.
I only hope that he stays secured tonight.
It takes only a little to make him appear,
A few wrong words or a threat that is near.
Even in a winning battle he still loses,
It is the hearts of loved ones that he bruises.
He has no conscience when using his force,
For even the worst of massacres he feels no remorse.
The ones who know him are afraid,
To keep others from knowing I work every day.
I can't always keep him under control,
When he breaks lose he is without a soul.
An evil, heartless, demon son of Satan,
When he escapes the depths of inferno are waiting.
Although I have tried, no prison can hold him in.
Someone always comes through with the key again.
Those I love most release him unknowing,
They can't understand the anger that is growing.
I don't mean to be this way,
Where the rage comes from I can't say.
I never thought I would ever see,
The evil I'm most petrified of being a part of me.
The monster with which I struggle each day,
Is only the anger that I feel but do not say.
The bottled up emotion from the depths within,
My worst enemy, in a battle with no end.
I continue to keep him locked up tight,
Out of mind and out of sight.
Maybe I will find a way,
To prevent his escape another day.

The Career Center

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

Lexington Herald Leader Wednesday, October 05, 2005

When you get in a vehicle, or even drink a cup of coffee, do you ever stop and think about all the machines that helped to make the products available to you? Well, someone has. A mechanical engineer realizes that almost everything we see is either made by or processed by a machine at some point. Someone has to design and maintain these machines. That is why mechanical engineers are so important to the rest of us. They are the ones that design and improve every type of machine that is used to make products that benefit everyone.

Duties and Responsibilities

Mechanical engineers oversee the design, construction, and testing of mechanical production systems. Mechanical engineers also test the mechanical systems and products that they design. Then they make adjustments to make sure the products function properly. They also evaluate any problems and tell mechanics what repairs to make.

There are also many other duties in addition to those that have been mentioned. There are many products that have recurring problems which mechanical engineers must find and repair. They also may be put in charge of a group of mechanics and other engineers to work on new products.

Aptitudes and Abilities

To be a good mechanical engineer you should have an aptitude toward learning large amounts of math and physics. You must also be a mechanical minded individual with the ability to see how a machine works. An ability to work with computer and design programs is also a requirement. To have great success at this job you must be a creative, responsible, hard-working individual. It is also good that you be a very social person so that you can communicate clearly.

Education and Training

To become a mechanical engineer you must take many long and strenuous courses. These classes range from physics to the tensile strengths of metals. The minimum education level required is a bachelor's degree. This degree usually takes five years to obtain but can be done in four if you take a full load each semester.

Salary and Working Hours

The salary for this job is good as well as the usual working hours. The salaries available range anywhere from $34,750-$93,598 in the state of Kentucky. Since most of these jobs are in factories the usual work week is forty hours long. There are also many fringe benefits that help improve this job. There is almost always health insurance as well as paid vacation and company expense accounts. Engineers are often treated very well due to their ability to make and save the company money.

Working Environment

Most mechanical engineers work in an office and out in the factory by which they are employed. There are a few mechanical engineers that work for themselves and do design work out on jobsites

and on large farms and cities as well.

Being a mechanical engineer your job obligates you to work with a lot of data in the form of measurements and equations. This job requires you to do less work with people than other occupations, but you must still be able to communicate ideas and get along with co-workers. Since you're designing machines you can guess that you will be working with a lot of tools and other things on a daily basis. Therefore you can easily see that this job is mainly working with data and things.

Job Outlook

This career field is growing much faster than most others that are out there. This year the number of available jobs in the state of Kentucky is predicted to rise 16.4% over the average. As you can now see this would be a good career field to look into as far as a future career goes. It is a fast growing field that offers excellent benefits and great job security.

Sources of Additional Information

www.online.onetcenter.org/
Career information center
www.iseek.com

Yin and Yang

If you haven't read The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown yet I'm sure that you have heard of this controversial novel. The characters take up the age old quest to find the Holy Grail so that they might know for sure what it is exactly. Contrary to popular belief they aren't expecting to find a cup at all. They believe that the Holy Grail is simply a set of documents that prove that Jesus was a human and that he married and had children. This is an extremely interesting fiction book that is full of all sorts of twists and turns.

The concept that jumped out at me immediately as I read this book was the unique use of symbolism. Most of the characters have some sort of item that represents them throughout the story. Even though the author doesn't state this outright it is highly evident that this was done intentionally to help reinforce the story line and to connect the characters to each other.

One symbol that was continually mentioned throughout the book was the Yin Yang. I am sure that we have all seen this symbol at some point in time. To pieces that are the exact opposite are joined together to form a whole new more aesthetically pleasing shape. Even though they are two contradicting shapes they join together to form something that is both functional and beautiful. This symbol was repeatedly mentioned by the main character Robert Langdon. It is not a coincidence that he is fascinated with this shape however.

The Yin Yang is used to represent the two main characters in the novel, Robert Langdon and Sophie Neveu. The first difference is as obvious as it can be. He is a man and she is a women. You can't start out with a difference that is easier to spot than that. It is like the opposite colors that are found on the Yin Yang. It is the first difference that you notice.

Second would have to be the way that they handle themselves throughout the story. Sophie tends to stay calm and clear state of mind no matter what is happening. She has the ability to formulate and implement a plan in just a matter of seconds when the situation demands it. She shows this when she fools the police into leaving the Louvre and following the tracking beacon that she threw onto a truck that was on the street below. Even at gunpoint she had the cunning to take down a priceless painting and threaten to destroy it as a way of getting the police officer to give up and let herself and Langdon escape the museum.

Langdon on the other hand seems to fall to pieces in these situations. He becomes scared and his thoughts are random and incoherent in times of distress. When he is threatened, he readily admits defeat and gives in to the aggressor. When Sophie is planning the escape from the museum he doesn't do anything but pace around the bathroom in a nervous fashion and run the chances that he would have of staying out of trouble if he simply turned himself in. Even when he is given a gun to keep a watch over Silas who is tied up he is nervous and clumsy. This is a complete gender reversal that helps to further show the differences between Robert and Sophie.

Another difference that is highly recognizable between the two characters is the way that they are viewed by the other characters in the book. Langdon is completely ignorant of what is going on most of the time but he is still thought to be the ingenious one of the pair. The police believe that he is the one that has planned all of the miraculous escapes and he is given the first look at any clue that relates to the Grail. No matter how little he knows about the subject he is always the first one consulted on the matter. A good example is that the police believe that he is the one that bought the train tickets with his credit card to throw them off his tail. It was actually Sophie that did this but it was not at all considered that she could have come up with this plan without Langdon's help.

Sophie on the other hand is continually underestimated throughout the story. She isn't even considered a threat when she walked into the Louvre to help Langdon escape. Captain Fache even says that she is just a female cryptographer as a reference to her inability to do her job. She is also underestimated when it comes to the Grail clues. When Teabing and Langdon are trying to decipher the text on the rosewood box they completely leave Sophie out of the process. When she did get a chance to see the text she shocked them all by recognizing what it said immediately. The fact that she is not given the credit that she is due was also a good thing. It allowed her to get out of many tight situations because she was not being watched or considered to be a threat.

As you can plainly see the Yin Yang helps to develop the characters of Sophie Neveu and Robert Langdon. Even though they are complete opposites the fit together to make one functional and pleasing unit. That is why they are always seen as the heroes of the story no matter what situation they are in. It is also common knowledge that opposites attract so it is no surprise that they form a love interest towards the end of the story. The Yin Yang is two opposite pieces that fit together perfectly so it is no surprise that it is used to represent the ultimate duo in this thrilling novel.

References

The Da Vinci Code
Written by: Dan Brown

2007 Training #1 Gr. 12 annotated

2006 PORTFOLIO SCORING STUDY*

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Over the Years

by:

L_____ R_____

attempts to establish and maintain a narrowed purpose by focusing on reading/writing connection

Looking back at my life I now realize that there are many things that I should have done differently. There are many situations that I have handled inappropriately and some that I have handled well. Although I have not always put my education first I do believe that this is one area that I have shown success in.

Reflection on Literacy

I believe that the progress that I have had in school over the years has been for the most part due to the time that I spend reading. I may not always read history books or even the classics of literature but it has still helped me tremendously. I mostly enjoy books that are historical fiction. These books do contain some facts but mostly they are just adventure stories that are centered around some event in the past. I have learned many interesting historical facts from these stories and have even been able to implement this knowledge into classes and into everyday conversation.

repetition of "that" Contribu to simplis word choice

fragment

Other books that I find that I enjoy are those about personal struggles from within and with relationships. Not that I enjoy the cheap romance novels with the damsel in distress and the hero that sweeps her off her feet. I like a story that I can relate to some of the struggles that I have encountered in my own life. Seeing how the characters in the book handle things often provides me with valuable insight on the way that I handled the situation and gives me ideas on how to solve the problem the next time that this issue arises. These are just a couple of the minor ways that reading has helped to have a positive influence on my life.

transitional element

Transitional element

The most important way that I feel that reading has affected my life is that it has made me a stronger writer. Without even noticing it my vocabulary has increased exponentially in the last few years with my progression into more intense and advanced works of literature. I have learned how to use many different literary elements to improve both the quality and appeal of my writing. I feel that reading is the only way for a person to succeed in making true advancements in these areas. Instead of setting in a boring English class and trying to learn from a teacher, you can read a book that is enjoyable to you. No matter what type of book that you may select your vocabulary and knowledge of basic literary skills will improve subconsciously. Even before I studied grammar and the parts of speech I could simply read a sentence and pick out problems with the mechanics. This is something that is learned quickly and naturally by simply diving into a few good books. It is also easier to identify which topics will be the most interesting to readers once you have tried to get into a few books that did a poor job at providing an interesting opening chapter. If you can't grab the reader's interest in the first few seconds then you have lost them for good. Therefore you can easily learn the importance of a good opening paragraph and get some excellent ideas on how to make your writing more interesting.

lapses in focus and coherence

- Some repetitious details
- simplistic word choice overall

17

I know that there have been many times in my life when I have went down the wrong road and made several bad decisions along the way. Reading, however, has not been one of them. The simple things that I have learned from different books over the years have helped me out in more ways than I could possibly ever mention. If everyone could realize this, I have no doubt that we would be for the most part a better society. Even without the advantages of a formal education reading helps to teach us lessons that we can implement in our everyday lives. I hope that even the person who takes the time to read this reflection will walk away from it with the feeling that they have learned something from it, no matter how small that piece of knowledge may be.

makes literacy connections here

- Organization is logical but lapses in coherence within paragraphs.
- Errors in grammar/usage and correctness generally do not interfere with communication.
- Some attempt at complex sentence structure, but lacks control of sentence structure

This Monster I Know

the writing focuses on 'rage' from beginning to end. Some difficulties with audience, idea dev., and structure throughout.

There is a monster deep down inside,
No one knows where he hides.
He is terrible with deadly eyes,
Tears cascade like rain as he cries.
So full of hate that he forgets what's right.
I only hope that he stays secured tonight.
It takes only a little to make him appear,
A few wrong words or a threat that is near.
Even in a winning battle he still loses,
It is the hearts of loved ones that he bruises.
He has no conscience when using his force,
For even the worst of massacres he feels no remorse.
The ones who know him are afraid,
To keep others from knowing I work every day.
I can't always keep him under control,
When he breaks lose he is without a soul.
An evil, heartless, demon son of Satan,
When he escapes the depths of inferno are waiting.
Although I have tried, no prison can hold him in.
Someone always comes through with the key again.
Those I love most release him unknowing,
They can't understand the anger that is growing.
I don't mean to be this way,
Where the rage comes from I can't say.
I never thought I would ever see,
The evil I'm most petrified of being a part of me.
The monster with which I struggle each day,
Is only the anger that I feel but do not say.
The bottled up emotion from the depths within,
My worst enemy, in a battle with no end.
I continue to keep him locked up tight,
Out of mind and out of sight.
Maybe I will find a way,
To prevent his escape another day.

forced rhyme sacrifices meaning

Some idea development within 6 line sets but some ideas are repetitious

acceptable, effective word choice (e.g., cascade, conscience, massacres, remorse)

attempts to meet audience's needs through some transitional elements

Some use of poetic language, though poem is very 'prosey' — not enough economy of language that is characteristic of poetry genre.

often uses commas where periods should be

metaphor

attempt to meet audience's needs

recognition of problem

Some transitional elements throughout poem though not completely effective

The Career Center

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

applies some characteristics of the article genre through format, not wording

attempts to engage audience

Lexington Herald Leader

Wednesday, October 05, 2005

When you get in a vehicle, or even drink a cup of coffee, do you ever stop and think about all the machines that helped to make the products available to you? Well, someone has. A mechanical engineer realizes that almost everything we see is either made by or processed by a machine at some point. Someone has to design and maintain these machines. That is why mechanical engineers are so important to the rest of us. They are the ones that design and improve every type of machine that is used to make products that benefit everyone.

subheadings provide transitions though organization is not always effective

Duties and Responsibilities

Mechanical engineers oversee the design, construction, and testing of mechanical production systems. Mechanical engineers also test the mechanical systems and products that they design. Then they make adjustments to make sure the products function properly. They also evaluate any problems and tell mechanics what repairs to make.

There are also many other duties in addition to those that have been mentioned. There are many products that have recurring problems which mechanical engineers must find and repair. They also may be put in charge of a group of mechanics and other engineers to work on new products.

repetitious, simplistic word choice

Aptitudes and Abilities

To be a good mechanical engineer you should have an aptitude toward learning large amounts of math and physics. You must also be a mechanical minded individual with the ability to see how a machine works. An ability to work with computer and design programs is also a requirement. To have great success at this job you must be a creative, responsible, hard-working individual. It is also good that you be a very social person so that you can communicate clearly.

simplistic word choice

Education and Training

To become a mechanical engineer you must take many long and strenuous courses. These classes range from physics to the tensile strengths of metals. The minimum education level required is a bachelor's degree. This degree usually takes five years to obtain but can be done in four if you take a full load each semester.

Salary and Working Hours

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attempts some complexity in sentence structure

focus shifts to how to become engineer

and on large farms and cities as well.

Being a mechanical engineer your job obligates you to work with a lot of data in the form of measurements and equations. This job requires you to do less work with people than other occupations, but you must still be able to communicate ideas and get along with co-workers. Since you're designing machines you can guess that you will be working with a lot of tools and other things on a daily basis. Therefore you can easily see that this job is mainly working with data and things.

Some awareness of audiences needs

rors in comma usage

Simplistic word choice

Job Outlook

This career field is growing much faster than most others that are out there. This year the number of available jobs in the state of Kentucky is predicted to rise 16.4% over the average. As you can now see this would be a good career field to look into as far as a future career goes. It is a fast growing field that offers excellent benefits and great job security.

shift in point of view

Sources of Additional Information

www.online.onetcenter.org/
Career information center
www.iseek.com

attempt at documentation though more appropriate and complete documentation is necessary - (e.g., specific websites and articles rather than general site and search engine)

Yin and Yang

attempt to establish a purpose but body doesn't necessarily support this purpose

error in correctness - title not underlined

errors in comma usage

If you haven't read The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown yet I'm sure that you have heard of this controversial novel. The characters take up the age old quest to find the Holy Grail so that they might know for sure what it is exactly. Contrary to popular belief they aren't expecting to find a cup at all. They believe that the Holy Grail is simply a set of documents that prove that Jesus was a human and that he married and had children. This is an extremely interesting fiction book that is full of all sorts of twists and turns.

repetitious use of "that"

The concept that jumped out at me immediately as I read this book was the unique use of symbolism. Most of the characters have some sort of item that represents them throughout the story. Even though the author doesn't state this outright it is highly evident that this was done intentionally to help reinforce the story line and to connect the characters to each other.

lapses in coherence within body

One symbol that was continually mentioned throughout the book was the Yin Yang. I am sure that we have all seen this symbol at some point in time. To pieces that are the exact opposite are joined together to form a whole new more aesthetically pleasing shape. Even though they are two contradicting shapes they join together to form something that is both functional and beautiful. This symbol was repeatedly mentioned by the main character Robert Langdon. It is not a coincidence that he is fascinated with this shape however.

error

discussion of symbolism is general rather than analytical to support an authentic purpose

The Yin Yang is used to represent the two main characters in the novel, Robert Langdon and Sophie Neveu. The first difference is as obvious as it can be. He is a man and she is a women. You can't start out with a difference that is easier to spot than that. It is like the opposite colors that are found on the Yin Yang. It is the first difference that you notice.

"it is" is repetitiou

Second would have to be the way that they handle themselves throughout the story. Sophie tends to stay calm and clear state of mind no matter what is happening. She has the ability to formulate and implement a plan in just a matter of seconds when the situation demands it. She shows this when she fools the police into leaving the Louvre and following the tracking beacon that she threw onto a truck that was on the street below. Even at gunpoint she had the cunning to take down a priceless painting and threaten to destroy it as a way of getting the police officer to give up and let herself and Langdon escape the museum.

Some use of transitional elements

imprecise

Langdon on the other hand seems to fall to pieces in these situations. He becomes scared and his thoughts are random and incoherent in times of distress. When he is threatened, he readily admits defeat and gives in to the aggressor. When Sophie is planning the escape from the museum he doesn't do anything but pace around the bathroom in a nervous fashion and run the chances that he would have of staying out of trouble if he simply turned himself in. Even when he is given a gun to keep a watch over Silas who is tied up he is nervous and clumsy. This is a complete gender reversal that helps to further show the differences between Robert and Sophie.

errors in comma usage

error

attempts complexity in sentence structure but lacks control

no integration of text to support ideas

organization demonstrates lapses in coherence integrating plot and analysis

Another difference that is highly recognizable between the two characters is the way that they are viewed by the other characters in the book. Langdon is completely ignorant of what is going on most of the time but he is still thought to be the ingenious one of the pair. The police believe that he is the one that has planned all of the miraculous escapes and he is given the first look at any clue that relates to the Grail. No matter how little he knows about the subject he is always the first one consulted on the matter. A good example is that the police believe that he is the one that bought the train tickets with his credit card to throw them off his tail. It was actually Sophie that did this but it was not at all considered that she could have come up with this plan without Langdon's help.

Some use of transitional elements

Sophie on the other hand is continually underestimated throughout the story. She isn't even considered a threat when she walked into the Louvre to help Langdon escape. Captain Fache even says that she is just a female cryptographer as a reference to her inability to do her job. She is also underestimated when it comes to the Grail clues. When Teabing and Langdon are trying to decipher the text on the rosewood box they completely leave Sophie out of the process. When she did get a chance to see the text she shocked them all by recognizing what it said immediately. The fact that she is not given the credit that she is due was also a good thing. It allowed her to get out of many tight situations because she was not being watched or considered to be a threat.

language is, for the most part, acceptable, but at times is imprecise

imprecise

As you can plainly see the Yin Yang helps to develop the characters of Sophie Neveu and Robert Langdon. Even though they are complete opposites the fit together to make one functional and pleasing unit. That is why they are always seen as the heroes of the story no matter what situation they are in. It is also common knowledge that opposites attract so it is no surprise that they form a love interest towards the end of the story. The Yin Yang is two opposite pieces that fit together perfectly so it is no surprise that it is used to represent the ultimate duo in this thrilling novel.

attempt to engage reader

- overall, writing demonstrates control over grammar and usage, but the writing demonstrates errors in correctness though these errors do not interfere with communication.

References

The Da Vinci Code
Written by: Dan Brown