

TSIS WORKSHEET FOR PROSPECTIVE LETTER

ENGL 108 / SEC. H & I / SUMMER LEAP 2009 / OLDHAM & RUBASKY / CHANG & LEE



Below is a TSIS-style template that we hope will help you as you write your Prospective Essay cover letter. This is designed to give you a sense of what a Prospective Essay might look like, but you should think of it only as a model and know that this essay is about your voice and your reflections. You should not copy this template for your essay or simply fill in the blanks and details that we have provided you with here. Develop your own ideas, your own points, your own organization, your own evidence, and your own overall goals and assessment.

Dear _____ and _____:

In high school, I always considered myself _____.

I usually received good grades on my essays and because my teachers focused on things like sentence structure and grammar more than the content of my papers, I thought I would have no problems transitioning to writing at the college level. Or, to be more honest, I _____.

When I received my first paper back in this class, I realized that there was, in fact, a huge difference. I know that my writing still isn't perfect and that I have a lot to work on still in terms of _____.

but I feel that over the course of the four weeks in LEAP, I have _____.

{Note: Make sure to be reflective, to outline what you are going to cover, to address the goals of the class, and so on.}

In this class, we worked a lot on _____.

This was new to me, because although I like reading and am a pretty fast reader, I usually just read to be able to answer the discussion questions or to be able to answer questions that might show up on a quiz. Our first reading was an essay by Sherman Alexie called "Superman and Me." I liked this piece a lot because _____.

My reading strategies for this piece were to read it while I was on the treadmill at the IMA. That was a bad idea, apparently, because when we got to class, I had no notes and couldn't refer to page numbers. I decided to be a more conscientious reader when we moved on to Tan's essay, "Mother Tongue." Instead of reading at the gym I, _____.

In fact, it is interesting to me that these essays, which are about reading, both _____.

I think that what I have learned from this is _____.

In addition to reading a lot, we also wrote a ton of summaries. I think summaries are very boring to write, but for that reason, I was glad to have read all the sections of writing summaries in *They Say/I Say*, because _____.

Which is great because, as I may have mentioned just now...I hate writing summaries! When I received my first summary back from you on _____, you wrote that I “needed to think more carefully about what the main ideas were and what the supporting details were.” In my second summary, I did a better job with this because I figured out *before* I started writing, what the main ideas in _____’s essay were, as opposed to the supporting, anecdotal details. I could tell I had done a better job because you wrote, “I can tell that you have read and understood the article from the way you are able to synthesize King’s ideas.” I guess it does pay not to read on the treadmill!

One other thing that we worked on in this class, and that was a real challenge to me was making claims. Early on, in my Strengths and Challenges list, I wrote that I had a lot of trouble understanding what a claim was. Now, _____.

I wouldn’t say that all of my papers had “perfect” claims, but _____.

For example, in my close reading draft, I thought that my claim was _____.

However, after looking at your comments and working with the tutors, I ended up with a much more advanced claim. I wrote that _____.

{Note: Include more analysis, be metacognitive, address the outcomes, and so on.}

Overall, I am _____ with the work that I have done this summer. This class was _____ for me, but as I look back at my accomplishments, I feel _____.

However, I know that _____.

I am looking forward to the Fall quarter because _____.

{Note: Again, more reflection. Address how you might use what you’ve learned in the future. End on a positive note.}

Sincerely,

Type Your Name (Sign Above)