

CONTENT

Write Traits

Content

Content is all about *ideas*.

- **Brainstorm**: What would you look for if you were to evaluate someone's *ideas* in a piece of writing?

Content “Essentials”

- Narrow the topic to something specific
- Make the main idea stand out
- Stay focused on the topic
- Use fresh and original ideas
- Use supporting details
 - Elaborate
 - Personal Experience
 - Research
 - Real-world examples

Write Trait Writing Model : CONTENT

CATEGORY	Strong Achievement	Appropriate Achievement	Experiencing Difficulty
Content – Topic	A specific topic is defined. The main idea captures the purpose and audience.	A specific topic is defined. The main idea that supports the purpose and audience.	A specific topic is not properly defined and/or the main idea is disconnected from the purpose and audience.
Content – Focus	Focus remains on the main idea, while developing original, compelling, and/or thoughtful accompanying ideas.	Ideas relevant to the topic and main idea are developed.	Supporting ideas are not focused on the main idea or are irrelevant to the topic.
Content - Related Details	Relevant, supportive reasoning is evident throughout the writing.	The main idea is elaborated upon with relevant details and minimal distraction.	Details are irrelevant and distract from the main idea.

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Evaluate Sample Papers

To Sleep, or not to Sleep...

We've all been there. You spent all weekend playing video games and watching movies with your friends, and now it is Sunday night and you have an English assignment that is due tomorrow morning. Students all over the world are all too familiar with the dreaded "all-nighter," but are they familiar with the potential risks of not getting enough of those Z's? It may surprise you to learn that chronic sleep deprivation significantly affects your mood, health, and safety.

Has someone ever told you that you woke up on the wrong side of the bed? Maybe it's actually because you never actually went to bed at all! A lack of sleep can wreak havoc on one's emotions. In fact, it has been proven to be one of the causes of depression. Why do you think "sleep on it" is a popular tidbit of advice for someone struggling with a decision? Getting some shut-eye

might just bring you the clarity and perspective you need to make that big problem shrink down to a manageable size.

Mood is not the only thing affected by a lack of sleep; your health is also at risk. Sleep is needed to bolster your immune system and give your body time to recuperate. It's no coincidence that "sleep" is one of the most important remedies for the common cold. The long term clinical consequences of sleep deprivation are many: High blood pressure, heart attack, obesity, ADD, and the list goes on.

Your safety is also at great risk if you are sleep-deprived. Sleep-deprivation leads to significant reductions in alertness. Reducing your nighttime by as little as 1.5 hours for just one night could result in a reduction of daytime alertness by as much as 32%, leading to an increased risk of automobile accidents, or workplace injury.

Sleep deprivation is not something you should dismiss with a bored

yawn. It can have both immediate and lasting effects on your mood, health and safety. Luckily, many of these negative effects can be avoided, and increased awareness is the first step. So the next time you are given an assignment to do over the weekend, avoid the damaging all-nighter. Plan ahead and get 'er done- and then get some much needed beauty rest. You deserve it!

Sleep

Some people need much more sleep than others. Certain people can stay awake for many hours and not suffer any ill effects, while others need a good eight hours of sleep a night or even more. From seven and a half to nine hours is about normal. Anything less than this makes many people dysfunctional in their daily lives. Some people can do very well on four hours of sleep or less, though. No one knows why.

Sleep deprivation is highly dangerous, especially in our current society. It has many causes, not all of which are known. People often drive automobiles, for example, on a minimal amount of sleep, and this causes countless accidents. In addition, some people may operate dangerous machinery. A sleep-deprived person might forget to turn off a stove, thereby creating a fire hazard, or fall asleep at the wheel, triggering a highway accident. Without sleep, a person cannot dream. In addition, sleep deprivation is much more common than most people think. Despite all the evidence, scientists are not always sure why sleep deprivation occurs.

Sleep deprivation could cause a person to become depressed or moody. This shows up in many different ways, and is manifested in personality changes. Lack of sleep is also a threat to the immune system, as well. This tendency toward sleeplessness is increasing in our society.

There are many theories about curing sleeplessness, but in all likelihood, it cannot be cured completely. We can treat it, but not really cure it. We need to dream, so we need to sleep. It's that simple. Dreaming is the primary point of sleep. Exercise helps many people to sleep if they do not perform it too close to the time they want to go to sleep. Some people can fall asleep more easily if they read or watch TV. For some people, television is more a way of preventing sleep. Caffeine also inhibits sleep. No one thing works for everyone. As time goes on, and research on sleep continues to expand, we are likely to learn more about the mysteries of sleep and our need for dreaming. Maybe one day, we won't need to sleep at all.

Evaluate

With a partner, share your evaluation of the two papers.

Try to come to an agreement about the level of each piece (Strong, Appropriate, Experiencing Difficulties), and be prepared to explain why you think so to the class.

SUMMARY

Content is all about the expression of ideas between the writer and the reader (audience).

The writer has something to express, and must make it as accurate and clear as possible in order for the reader to fully understand and appreciate it.

As you write, keep in mind that you have a reader, and how best to show that reader your main ideas.

Essay: Content Brainstorming

Your assigned essay topic is “The Consequences of Media Misuse”.

Brainstorm (in any way that works best for you) some possible ideas that you might include in your essay, as well as supporting details.

Example Brainstorming Method

