

10 Techniques to Further Develop an Essay

Disclaimers

- 1) These techniques are designed to marginally impact an essay
- 2) These techniques are most effective when applied to an essay that has undergone the writing process
- 3) The sample essay is purely hypothetical and written for the sole purpose of demonstrating the ten techniques
- 4) These techniques should be dispersed throughout the essay, not clumped together
- 5) All essays will benefit from some of these techniques

The techniques

The Little, Brown Handbook fully covers this topic on pages 90-100

- 1) Integrate another quotation
- 2) Introduce each quoted expert with his or her full name, title, profile of credentials, etc. (LBH 672)
- 3) Respond fully to counterarguments
- 4) Distinguish your position by explaining what it is not
- 5) Add details, statistics, descriptions, illustrations, anecdotes (stories), or some other form of support
- 6) Cite a more extreme position and explain its fallacies
- 7) Provide historic information about the issue/topic
- 8) Add similes, metaphors, and/or allusions (LBH 526)
- 9) Use a more complete description
 - A—Select a word and describe it with a full sentence
 - B—Add nonrestrictive clauses and phrases
- 10) Add transitional words, phrases, or sentences between ideas and/or paragraphs (LBH 85-87)

The Initial Text

The United States has a pressing energy problem. T. Boone Pickens, an energy expert, believes that Texas and its westward neighbors should more actively harvest wind. Some people believe windmill-generated electric power is too expensive, but what is the price of lethargy? Quite clearly, action is necessary.

The Further-developed Text

Numbers correspond to the techniques mentioned

⁷The United States' population is precariously balanced between its ability to produce energy and the amount of energy necessary to accommodate its growing population and industry. ²Due to his background in oil production and common-man communication style, T. Boone Pickens is quite possibly the most influential among the experts offering national advice and solutions. He believes that Texas and its westward neighbors, ^{9-B}Arizona, Nevada, Kansas, and New Mexico, should more actively harvest wind. He refers to this area of the United States as a ¹"wind corridor." Many critics argue that windmill electric generators are a financially impractical solution. ³This argument is particularly aimed at windmill farms, where expensive, industrial, thirty-foot bladed windmills operate. ³However, this argument ignores recent, important developments of these generators that will enable them to soon produce sufficient electricity for the needs of standard suburban homes. ^{9-A}The most common of these windmills utilizes approximately five-foot blades and is mounted thirty feet off the ground. ⁶Reproducible energy fanatics argue that all Americans should depend only on either wind or solar energy. However, this solution is highly impractical in ⁸the skyscraper forests of urbanized areas in the United States, owing to the disruption, ⁵by roughly eighty percent, of both sources. ⁴Incidentally, this essay is not meant to sway my fellow conversationalists to pass laws demanding such forward thinking. ¹⁰While a sense of urgency should guide our reasonable response, ⁴history implores all concerned citizens to allow the markets and the American Conscience to dictate the speed and thoroughness of alternative energy. ⁴Political activism will simply create unnecessary resentment. Nonetheless, future planning for immediate action is absolutely necessary because, as Pickens points out, ¹"we can't drill our way out of this one."

Extremely important reminder

Please realize not all texts are available to all ten techniques. Indeed, this paragraph stretched and forced some of the techniques for the purpose of demonstration.