***University of* *M'sila Department of English***

***Second Year LMD Students Written* *Expression Courses.Teacher:Berkani***

**ESSAY WRITING: PRACTICE I**

**Exercise01 :**  Following the example below, break down the thesis statements into *sub-topics* of developmental paragraphs ( i.e. into topic sentences**)**

**Example : Thesis statement :** "Watching television is not a waste of time"

**Question:** "Why isn't a waste of time?"

**Possible answers (Possible sub-topics)**

1-Because it is a valuable educational tool.

2-Because it helps us to relax.

3-Because it provides something for the family to discuss.

**The principle behind the breakdown:** As the central idea of the thesis statement is "not a waste of time", the paragraphs of this essay should discuss the reasons why watching TV isn't a waste of time. In other words, *the paragraphs should discuss the advantages behind watching TV*.

**Thesis statement 01:** "The village is the best environment for me to live"

**Question:**……………………………..…………………………………………………………………………

**Possible answers:**

1…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

2-…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

3-…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Thesis statement 02:** "Jogging is not the only way to improve your blood circulation."

**Question**:………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Topic sentences:**

1-……………………………….…………………………………………………………………………………

2-……………………………….…………………………………………………………………………………

3-……………………………...…………..………………………………………………………………………

**2- Thesis statement:** ""Writing in a foreign language is almost a difficult task."

**Topic sentences:**

1-……………………………….……………………...……………………….…………………………………

2-……………………………………………………………..…………….…………………………………….

3-………………………………………………………………………….………………………………………

**Exercise 02:** Each topic below is followed by a group of sentences which deals with one main idea. Decide what the main idea is and write it in one complete thesis statement.

1-Smoking  
a.  It causes lung cancer.  
b.  It pollutes the environment.  
c.  The smoke is harmful to the people around you.  
d.  It stains the smoker's teeth.

**Thesis statement** :…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

2-Topic : Cheating on a test  
a)  Write all the answers along your lower arm.  
b)  Wear a long-sleeved shirt to cover your arm.  
c)   Pull up your sleeve to look at answers when the teacher is not looking.  
d)  Pretend to scratch your arm when the teacher looks your way.  
  
**Thesis statement** :.................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................

**Exercise 03 :** Evaluate the following thesis statement as **Good** (the thesis is a focused, clear point), **Needs Work** (with some revision the statement could be Good), ,or **Unacceptable** (the thesis should probably be abandoned for an entirely new thesis).

1-During hard economic times, consumers flock to dollar stores, but they shop at nicer chains when the economy improves………………………………………………………………………………………………

2-The female characters in Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand reveal predictable behavior according to their class, age, and ethnicity…………………………………………………………………………

3- Aggression usually leads to violence, injury, and even death, and we should use it constructively

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………

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4- Patriotic notions of individualism pervade nineteenth century American literature………………..

5-School breakfasts should be funded because they have tremendous benefits for all children……….

6- One evening of a radio talk show amply illustrates both the appeal of such shows and their silliness………………………………………………………………………………………………..

**Exercise 04:** Using what you have learnt,(a) list at least *three* possible topic sentences for the following thesis statement. (b) Write *an introduction* and at least *two* developmental paragraphs

**Thesis statement:** People love internet for different reasons.

**Topic sentences:**

1-………………………………………………………………………………………………………...

2-………………………………………………………………………………………………………...

3-………………………………………………………………………………………………………...

**Introduction / Developmental paragraphs**

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**Exercise 05:** Think of *conclusions* for the following introductions.( No more than *five* or *six* sentences)

**Introduction 01**:Have you ever been sad? What about miserable? Have you ever felt like your entire world was falling apart and that there was nothing you could do about it? Millions of people feel this way every single day because of depression.

**Conclusion 01** ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

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**Introduction 02:**It is a beautiful African morning with the sun on the horizon and the air already thick as oil. A four-year-old boy wakes up to the sound of his baby sister crying. She is hungry. He is also hungry, but there is no food to feed their family. His stomach growls; it has not been fed for more than three days. His mother will do what she can to find food for her starving family. Their empty bellies are something nearly impossible for us to imagine in the United States.

**Conclusion 02** ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………...........................................................

\*\**Do your duty come what may\*\**