

Name:

Date:

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DIRECTIONS:

You must choose two essays from the list below. **Because an essay may fit in more than one category, you may only use an essay once for units 2 – 5.** For each essay you read, answer each of the following questions in a short paragraph on a separate piece of paper. These questions are adapted from pages 265–266 of *Influential Writing* and are reproduced here for your convenience. If a question doesn't apply to the essay you have read (and not every question will apply to every essay), then write "*Doesn't apply to this essay.*" **and explain why** that is so. Attach this page to the front of your work and hand it in for marking. Each question is worth 5 marks.

Remember, these questions will count as your test for this unit, so do a good job on them.

Example, Illustration, and Illusion

<i>Another Threat to Freedom in Ontario</i>	p. 11
<i>The Frightening Tyranny of Language</i>	p. 14
<i>Any Humans There?</i>	p. 24
<i>A Few Kind Words for Superstition</i>	p. 48
<i>Fast As an Elephant, Strong As an Ant</i>	p. 73
<i>Where Do We Go From Here?</i>	p. 110
<i>The Pain of Animals</i>	p. 240
<i>Nurses</i>	p. 248

Determining Influences in Reading Essays

1. To what audience is this essay directed? How do you know?
2. Describe the writer's tone in the essay. How does the tone influence the essay?
3. How helpful (if at all) is the title in attracting the reader's interest? Does it help prepare readers to accept the writer's position?
4. Describe the language used by the writer. How does the language used influence the essay?

5. When an essay appears to be based on logic, is there an underlying appeal to emotion? Which emotions are appealed to? How can you tell?
6. In your opinion, is any appeal to emotions successful?
7. What methods does the writer use to interest the reader?
8. After you have read the first two or three paragraphs, has the writer won your confidence? Explain why, or why not.
9. Is it assumed you are on the writer's side? How is this assumption of agreement implied?
10. At what point do you realize where the writer stands on the issue? Once you know for certain, review the essay to see if you can find evidence of foreshadowing that might prepare readers to accept this position.
11. How are objections to the writer's position dealt with? Can you think of any objections that the writer hasn't mentioned?
12. In an essay that is clearly narrative (or descriptive, or expository, or humorous, etc.) is there a hidden persuasive objective? What is it? How is the persuasive implication suggested?
13. In an essay that presents an overt argument, outline the main points and consider why they appear in the order they do. Could the persuasive force of the argument be strengthened by reorganization?
14. How completely and objectively does the writer deal with counter-arguments and opposing points of view?
15. If a persuasive essay seems to be directed at a fairly specific audience, how does the writer go about engaging the interest of this audience?
16. If a writer claims to have examined both sides of an issue with care, are you convinced? Is there any evidence that the writer has, in fact, weighted one side more heavily than the other?
17. In which paragraph is the nature of the problem the writer wishes to discuss most clearly stated? Where in the essay does the writer most clearly state the solution to the problem?
18. Does the concluding paragraph of the essay have a persuasive point? If not, why not? If so, how effectively does this point serve as a conclusion to the whole essay?
19. Has reading this essay changed your mind about the subject? In what ways? If not, how has the writer failed?
20. Do you believe that the writer has succeeded in influencing you in the way intended? Why, specifically, has the writer succeeded or failed?