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July 7, 2011
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Section 12329
Reflection #2

This week I took the unit 2 vocabulary test and familiarized myself with new vocabulary, implied main ideas and transitions.

Chapter 3

This chapter talks about supporting details which I am familiar with already, they are the added information of the main idea. To understand the main idea I must find the supporting details. The supporting details “are reasons, examples, facts, steps, or other kinds of evidence that explain a main idea.” (Langan 103) For example in the cartoon, “I know why I don’t lose weight. Eating big meals and lots of snacks makes me happy. Drinking beer makes me happy. Not exercising makes me happy.” (Langan 103) The main idea is that he knows why he doesn't lose weight. The supporting details are the meals, snacks, drinking beer and not exercising. Those details told me why he does not lose weight.

A way to see the main idea and supporting details in a precise manner is by outlining. An outline starts with the main idea, then a major supporting detail and below are two minor supporting details. Maps and diagrams are visual outlines, instead of a written document it is demonstrated in shapes. I have used outlines in the past so I think they are more helpful. Diagrams and maps are too messy for me.

Another way to outline is by summarizing. A summary “is the reduction of a large amount of information to its most important points.” (Langan 113) Like an outline a summary will have a main idea and its major supporting details.

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Chapter 4

It is essential to know about the supporting details, because it is the only way to figure out the implied main idea. "The main idea may be implied - only suggested by the supporting details and not clearly stated in one sentence." (Langan 143) For example, "Kenny hasn't spoken to me in two months, he won't return my calls, and he's been seeing one of my friends. Do you think I should break up with him?" (Langan 143) This passage is filled with supporting details, it states that Kenny has been ignoring her and dating a friend of hers. It does not state the main idea in a sentence but the implied idea is that he obviously ended their relationship. That is why it is helpful to know what a paragraph is about so you can figure out the implied main idea. Here are two questions to ask when reading a paragraph, "Who or what is the paragraph about?" "What is the main point the author is trying to make about that topic?" (Langan 148) When I was taking the test on Townsend I read these questions. When I finished reading I went back to the questions, answered them and it helped me figure out the implied idea. Always keep these questions in mind, it will help!

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Chapter 5

Transitions are easy for me to understand when I am reading, but when it comes to writing an essay, it is hard for me to transition. In this chapter I learned about common transition words that I can use correctly. Two types of transitions are addition and time. A way to identify an addition sentence is by words such as “Also” “First” “Second.” Words such as “Before” “Immediately” and “During” are time transitions. Now I know what words to use for each type of transition and hopefully help me for writing purposes in the future. I will definitely keep the transition words demonstrated in the powerpoint as notes.

Chapter 6

There are three types of relationships such as illustration, comparison and contrast, cause and effect. Illustration words “indicate that an author will provide one or more examples to develop and clarify a given idea.” (Langan 230) Illustration words paint a picture in my mind. I really like when an author uses this format because I like to imagine what I am reading. Compare and contrast describe similarities and differences. Cause and effect explain why something happened and its consequences. I am familiar with these types of relationships, so it was just a review for me.