

Appendix 2- Quotation Deconstruction: A class activity

“Keep your eyes on the sun and you won’t see the shadows.”

Note: All students are given the same five-paragraph essay exemplar to examine and deconstruct. Together, the class works through the exemplar and identifies the key components of each paragraph. The teacher records this information on the white board; students are encouraged to take notes for future reference.

Paragraph One: Introduction

- Quotation given in quotation marks
- Several *interpretations* are given
- Personal opinion offered
- Strong voice in first person “I”
- Strong word choice: minor setbacks (line 3)
 - concentrate (line 4)
 - optimistic (line 5)
 - interpreted (line 2)

Smooth transitions: However, in my opinion,...

Paragraph Two: Repetition

- Advice given
- Well organized (paragraph has a topic sentence; ideas are supported with details and explanations)
- Internal punctuation (commas, semi colon)
- Transitional expression : Although

Paragraph Three: Writer defends her thoughts; provides explanation

- Introduces a new quote directly connected to her topic
- Word repetition: optimistic

Paragraph Four: Audience awareness: refers to the readers as “we”

- Personal example provided (*Text to Self*)
- Gives insight and wisdom – a lesson learned

Paragraph Five: Conclusion presented

- Restates quotation; restates purpose of quote
- Restates main points in a fresh, new way
- Gives new insight (*Text to World*); reiterates lesson(s) learned

