AP L&C – Introductory essays about reading and writing: Rhetorical Analysis

Due Thursday, October 6 at 2:30 PM on turnitin.com

Select ONE of the following essays to analyze for this assignment

Verlyn Klinkenborg – excerpt from *Several Short Sentences About Writing*

Susan Sontag – Introduction to *Best American Essays of 1992*

David Foster Wallace – “Tense Perfect”

Joan Didion – “Why I Write”

Reread the essay and review your notes from class. Write a three-paragraph response in which you identify the primary purpose of the essay and discuss the strategies that the author used to achieve this purpose. Use the template below to organize your response. You cannot and should not do everything that is listed in the bullets under paragraphs 2 and 3, but you should do everything else. The bulleted items are suggestions to get you thinking, and you should discuss one or two ideas in detail rather than breeze superficially through more items.

* paragraph #1: Summarize the essay – include the author, title, publication, the date of publication, and the general topic of the essay in your opening sentence. Describe the rhetorical situation and triangle for this text. Use the rest of the paragraph to describe the content of the essay in more detail.
* paragraph #2: Describe the structure of the essay. How is information presented and organized. Questions to consider in this paragraph are listed below. Use specific examples from the text to illustrate your observations. Connect your observations in paragraph #2 to the rhetorical framework that you identified in paragraph #1. Things to consider:
  + how does the author present or include him/herself in the essay?
  + what are the different sections of the essay?
  + describe the different voices that are included in the essay?
  + is the essay easy or hard to understand? why?
  + what is the tone of the essay?
  + what is the overall framing and purpose of the essay? is it designed to convince you of something? to entertain? to educate?
* paragraph #3: Write a one-paragraph personal response to a specific idea from the essay. You could:
  + describe why you agree and / or disagree with an idea in the essay
  + share your own experiences and or thoughts as they connect to the essay
  + discuss and explore something in the essay that confuses you or inspires you