

## **Due October 7**

Please review your notes from class. We learned how to create an outline from a text. Some teachers will be very strict about formal outlines; I am not one of those teachers. However, your outline has to be complete and neat. Outlines are a fantastic way to organize material. You can use them to help you study a textbook; you can also use them to organize your material before you write an essay.

Day one:

**Make sure your outline for Living in Tents in Bible Times is complete. We did this in class but check it again. Is it neat and complete? Turn this in for a grade on October 7.**

This is from Rod and Staff: Progressing with Courage lesson 41-

Many people lived in tents in Bible times. Genesis 4 says that Jabal was the father of those who dwelt in tents. He must have been the first dweller. The patriarchs lived in tents. Genesis 12 tells how Abraham pitches his tent near Bethel. In Genesis 26 we read that Isaac pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and in Genesis 33 we see that Jacob pitched his tent before a city of Shechem. The children of Israel lived in tents during the forty years in the wilderness. Some of them also lived in tents after they reached Canaan.

How was a tent made? A tent was usually made of black goats' hair. It was often oblong in shape. many tents had only two or three rooms. The rooms were separated by goats' hair curtains.

A tent had various furnishings. Rugs were often used for floor coverings. The beds were mats that could be rolled up during the day. A piece of leather was spread out on the ground for a table. The seats were the floor. For an oven, a hollow was made in the ground and several stones were placed in it. Skin bags and leather buckets were used to carry water and other liquids.

Day two:

Read the article “Mining Coal” and create an outline for it. **Turn this in for a grade. It should be labeled “Mining Coal Outline”** (see below)

### Mining Coal

When was coal first used? The Chinese used it already in the 300's to heat buildings and smelt metals. By the year 1000, coal was an important fuel in China. Commercial coal mining began in Europe during... (continued on the page below)

the 1200s, but coal was not an important fuel there until a severe shortage of wood developed in the 1600s. Then many Europeans began using coal. In North America, the Indians dug coal out of hillsides long before white men came. Some Indians used coal for baking pottery.

What kinds of mines are used to dig coal? Surface mines were used first. Indians and white pioneers simply dug coal out of hillside mines where coal was easy to get. Surface mines today are strip mines, where layers of rock and soil are stripped away to uncover the coal beneath. Underground mines came into use as coal deposits became harder to reach. In a drift mine, a tunnel is dug straight into the side of a hill to follow a coal seam. A mine with a sloping tunnel is called a slope mine. To reach coal far below the surface, a shaft mine is used. Such a mine has a tunnel going straight down into the ground, with side tunnels extending into the seams of coal.

What are some dangers of coal mining? One danger in underground mines is cave-ins. Walls and ceilings must be carefully braced so that they do not collapse. A second danger is gases such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and methane, which can cause miners to suffocate. Instruments are used to check for the accumulation of these gases, and powerful fans blow fresh air into an underground mine. When miners hit an underground river, they often face a third danger—flooding. Large pumps must be used to direct the water safely outside. A fourth danger is fire, which is sometimes caused when explosives are used in the presence of certain gases. Coal mining still has some dangers, but they are not nearly as great today as they were long ago.

### Review Exercises

Day 3:

Pick a section from your either your history or science book and write an outline. It must be at least four paragraphs long. **Bring this to class for a grade.**

**Due October 21**

You will start your definition paragraph this week. In class we discussed this, but, here is a quick review. Read the examples that follow.

Complete steps 1 - 3 on Tuesday - **print your research to bring to class**

Complete steps 4 and 5 on Thursday and begin to write your rough draft - **bring your interview notes to class!**

Complete step 6 on Friday and **print your rough draft.**

1. A good definition paragraph truly hinges on your word. So your first step is to pick one of these concept words. Remember you are going to develop an entire paragraph for this one word!

Justice	love	faith	grit	sportsmanship	honesty
courtesy	success	integrity	humility	courage	friendship

There are others you can select, but, please, check with me first.

Next you are going to spend some getting to know your word.

2. Look it up in a dictionary. Then look in a different dictionary! Examine the synonyms and antonyms.

My word: \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary 1: \_\_\_\_\_

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary 2: \_\_\_\_\_

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Complete research on your word to see what others have said about your word. You must keep up with your sources! Remember, we talked about this in class. For each new internet site, copy and paste the website URL and then take notes. Put all the information in your words. Ideally you are looking for two examples of how this word manifests itself in its truest form. If you copy more than 5 words in a row, you must put it in quotes. We will spend time on how to do this in class. **Print this and bring to class!**

4. Talk to your mom and dad, your grandparents, or to anyone whose opinion would matter (ex. ask your coach if you are writing about sportsmanship, ask your preacher if you are writing about grace...); be sure to put their exact words in quotes and give them credit for helping you. **Label this piece of paper “Interview” and bring to class.**

5. Think about your own life. How have you experienced this word? You will want to have a personal example of your word in your essay.

6. Write your rough draft by using this model:

1st sentence - (your hook) - quote, a question, dictionary definition

2 - 12 (maybe more) sentences - include the information you have learned. You will want three examples that illustrate your word and remember one is from your own experiences

the last sentence - summarizes the word and ties it back to the first sentence

Use the rubric to guide you:

	3 - great job	2 - good job - you are nearly there	<b>1 not your best</b>
Introduction			
Main Idea			
Supporting example			
Supporting example			
Supporting example			
Conclusion			
Format correct (double spaced, Name, date, etc..)			
Strong verbs			
Vocabulary			
Voice (do you 'sound' strong and convincing)			

Total \_\_\_\_\_

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Samples:

## Racist

A racist can be defined as a prejudiced person who discriminates because of another individual's outer appearance or race. Racism can all start as a child being raised with negative thoughts, or can be brought upon by personal reasons. For example, growing up in a racist family will give adolescent awful thoughts about a race without even experiencing how they really feel first hand. A different example of how one might unfortunately choose to be racist would be if a person visits a country, and a negative event took place; this person might become racist toward a group of people that lived there all because of one personal event that happened. This is not a type of person that treats people like how they want to be treated, but it is a form of hatred toward a set of people. This kind of person might use mental abuse, or they can even get physically abusive toward the kind of race they are discriminate towards. They also can have a type of attitude that thinks that they are better than certain groups and cultures. Racism is a negative concept that put down people for no real reason. Racism is a form of ignorance and inequity and only one could wish for this discrimination to stop all together in order for everybody to get along.  
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## Deja vu

Deja vu is a French word meaning "already seen", it has also been described as a feeling or experience that one has seen or done something before. For example, you are waiting in line to check out at the grocery store and the lady behind you asks you to hand her a pack of gum. Suddenly you get an overwhelming feeling that you have been there in that exact same spot, talking to the same lady, even the same brand of gum. Even though everything seems so familiar you know there is no way that could have happened before. There are many theories as to why and how this phenomenon happens. One theory is that deja vu is connected with temporal-lobe epilepsy, but people without a history of epilepsy have also experienced deja vu. Psychiatrists believe it is something in your brain that confuses an event that happened in the past with the present. Another theory is parapsychologist think it is connected with past life experiences. Whether deja vu is an experience of the paranormal or simply some confusion in the brain, it is a perplexing feeling of having "already seen."  
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**Due October 28**

We had a writing conference in class on Monday. You should have a good idea of how you need to clean up and strengthen your essay.

Write your final draft of your essay by Thursday and share it with two classmates on Google Docs and with me. You should read and give feedback to two of your classmates as well.

Write down whose paper you read:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Make any editing or revision touches on Friday and **print your final copy.**

Gather all of your internet sources and interview sources and enter them into [EasyBib.com](http://EasyBib.com). We did this in class, and it is so easy to do in Google Docs. **Print this.**

Put your papers in this order:

on top - your final essay, followed by the Works Cited page (from EasyBib), the rubric, your rough draft, your research notes

You should feel pretty awesome about yourself! You have already learned so much this year -  
**WAY TO GO!!!!**

## **Due November 4**

This week you begin your BIG research project. THE ALLIGATOR PAPER!!! You will be expected to keep up with all of your materials during this multi-week assignment. Please get your binder and work space organized.

In class yesterday we read over source one and took notes. But in case you were absent here is a recap:

First read your source. (Your sources have been chosen for you so you do not need to worry about their credibility.) Then ask your self what are the main ideas? What matters? What have I learned? What is important? At first you may not be aware of your subtopics, but as you complete more research, you become acutely aware of what you should write about.

Our first topic is the habits of alligators. So, as you are reading the articles, focus only the alligator's habits. A habit is defined as mode of life or regular behavior for an animal. So in this case you are going to hunt for information that relates to how the alligator lives. You will not be concerned with the alligator's physical features.

Complete this on Tuesday:

In class, we read the first article, highlighted the habits of an alligator, and wrote notes. Remember not every paragraph had information for our topic. Please read over your notes and make sure they are neat and complete. Go back to the source and check that you found everything and your spelling is accurate. Now type your notes. Title it: "Notes on Habits from Source One."

Complete this on Thursday:

Go to the second source, read it, highlight the facts that are about the habits of the alligator, and type your notes and title it: "Notes on Habits from Source Two."

Complete this on Friday:

Read over all your notes and group them into subtopics such as gator holes, nesting habits, eating habits, caring for young, sounds made by alligators, and typical characteristics (ie. keeping warm). As you find these subtopics, you need to organize them.

Since you typed your original notes, it will be easy for you to copy and paste them into your subtopics. Open a new document and title it "Subtopics for Alligator's Habits." Type the name of the subtopic in a bold print and then put the relevant fact under it, place the document number in (1) after the fact. For example:

**Gator Holes**

Dig burrow or den with long snout (1)

Wash away mud by waving tail back and forth (1)

Make burrow up to forty feet long (1)

Make large room at end (1)

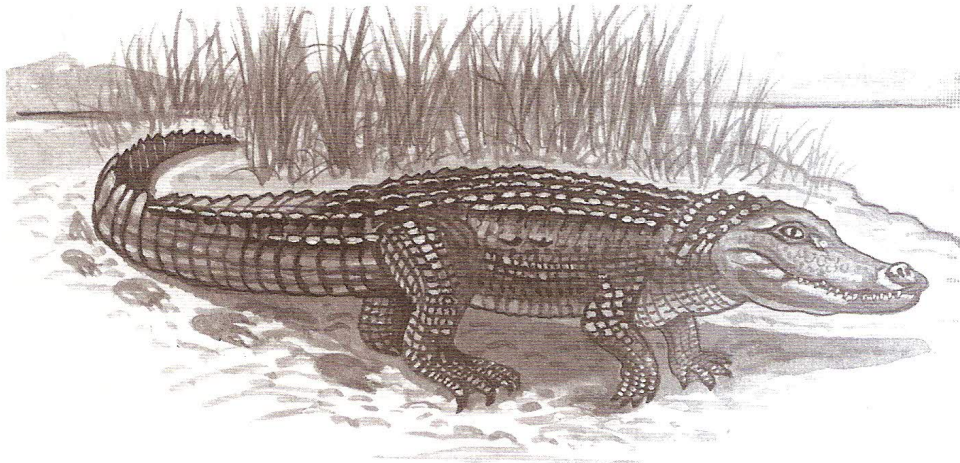
**\*\*Bring your two typed pages of notes and your typed Subtopics for Alligator's Habits to class for a grade.\*\***

The following pages are from Rod and Staff Grade 6:

**Reference Source 1:**

**Learning About Alligators**

- 1 Alligators are reptiles. They have backbones, they breathe with lungs, and they have dry, scaly skin. They thrive best where the atmosphere is hot and steamy. They live in or near freshwater swamps and lakes. In the United States, alligators live along the Gulf of Mexico and the southern Atlantic coast.
- 2 The jaws and teeth of an alligator are two fearsome weapons. Its teeth are heavy and sharp, and its jaw muscles are powerful enough to crush cattle bones. Surprisingly though, once an alligator's jaws are closed, a man can easily hold them shut with his hands.
- 3 An alligator's eyes have three eyelids. The upper and lower lids are opaque. The third lid is transparent and keeps out water when the alligator is swimming or diving.
- 4 Even though an alligator's ears are hidden under flaps behind the eyes, alligators can hear very well. Alligators have been trained to respond when called by name. Experienced hunters can attract alligators by making the right sounds.
- 5 The alligator's long, low body is shaped somewhat like a lizard's except that the alligator's body and tail are larger and thicker. A newly hatched alligator is about nine inches long. His body grows about one foot longer each year. A male alligator may grow to a length of twelve feet and a weight of five hundred pounds. In deep water an alligator tucks his legs against his body; and with mighty sweeps of his powerful tail, he swims at amazing speeds.



- 6 The alligator's legs and feet help him more on land than in water. The legs are short, yet he can use them to lift his body clear of the ground with just the tip of his tail touching. On land an alligator is clumsy and slow. He can move with surprising speed for a short distance, but he tires easily. His webbed hind feet are a help in paddling through shallow water.
- 7 An alligator spends much of his time on the banks of a stream, basking in the sun. Being cold-blooded, he needs the heat of the sun to keep warm. On extremely warm days, however, he may hide under the water, under bushes, or in a burrow or den.
- 8 An alligator usually digs a burrow or den in the bank of a river. He pushes into the mud with his long snout while swishing his tail back and forth to wash away the mud. He may dig a hole forty feet long, with bends as needed to avoid rocks and tree roots. At the far end, he makes a room large enough so that he can turn around.
- 9 In winter the alligator may hibernate in his burrow. Sometimes an alligator digs a basin in the deepest part of a pond or swamp. Such a "gator hole" contains water even in a dry season when other parts of the pond or swamp are dry. By this God-given instinct, the alligator saves himself and other animals that would otherwise die.
- 10 Alligators eat mostly fish. Newly hatched alligators eat small water animals such as water insects. Older alligators may attack larger animals along the shore, such as muskrats or raccoons. Rarely does an alligator attack an animal as large as a bear.
- 11 Alligators like marshmallows and bits of sandwiches, but it can be dangerous to feed them. When an alligator gets used to being fed, he seems to think that anything thrown at him is food. Alligators swallow many hard objects. Young alligators swallow twigs and pebbles, and older ones swallow bigger rocks and chunks of wood. In zoos they swallow things like coins or bottles. The most likely reason they swallow hard objects is to help them grind the food in their stomachs. Alligators swallow their food whole; they cannot chew.
- 12 Alligators do most of their feeding at night. Often they lie quietly in the water, waiting for something to catch. An alligator may use his tail to catch his food. When a school of fish passes nearby, he swirls his body into an almost complete circle. Then he uses



his tail to knock the food toward his jaws. Once a chicken came too near to an alligator's tail, perhaps thinking it was a log. The alligator knocked the chicken high into the air and caught it in his jaws before it fell to the ground.

**13** Alligators do not usually attack people, but a mother alligator guarding her nest can be dangerous. She remains nearby, nearly hidden in the water or bushes, guarding her nest hour after hour. But raccoons or skunks rarely get a chance to eat the eggs because not even a hungry bear wants to fight a mother alligator! When an enemy approaches her nest, she hisses a warning. If he comes closer, she will lunge forward, her mouth wide open. Once a man came too close to a nest, and he spent most of an afternoon in a tree while a mother alligator hissed at him from below.

**14** God made interesting creatures when He made alligators. They are interesting to watch and study, and they are also helpful to man. But as we learn about them, we must heed their God-given instincts and keep a safe distance.



**Sample notes:**

**The Habits of Alligators**

(Paragraphs 1–6 give no information about alligators' habits.)

**Paragraph 7**

• Spend much time basking in sun

• Hide under water, under bushes, or in burrow or den when too warm

Paragraph 8

- Dig burrow or den with long snout
- Wash away mud by waving tail back and forth
- Make burrow up to 40 feet long
- Make large room at end

Paragraph 9

- May hibernate in den in winter
- Sometimes dig holes in deepest part of pond or swamp
- These "gator holes" save alligators and other animals in dry weather

Paragraph 10

- Eat mostly fish
- Young ones eat small animals like water insects
- Older ones eat animals like muskrats and raccoons

Paragraph 11

- Like to eat marshmallows and sandwiches
- Swallow hard objects like rocks and pieces of wood, perhaps to grind their food
- Swallow food whole because they cannot chew

Paragraph 12



- Catch food mostly at night
- Lie quietly in water waiting for prey
- Use tail to knock food toward mouth

Paragraph 13

- Seldom attack people
- Mother alligator fierce when guarding nest
- Remains hidden nearby
- Hisses a warning
- Lunges forward with mouth open

Did you notice that some of the paragraphs have no notes taken from them? This is because those paragraphs have no information on the *habits of alligators*. Also notice that no whole sentences are copied. The notes are brief, yet there are plenty of them. The notes are separated according to paragraphs because that makes it easier to write an outline from them later.



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- Notes for a report should include only the information that fits a chosen topic. They should consist of main ideas and key words that are written in phrases rather than complete sentences.
  - Using more than one reference source helps to make a report more informative and interesting.








### Class Practice

- A. Read the second reference source about alligators. Find more information on “The Habits of Alligators.” Tell your teacher what notes to write on the chalkboard.



#### Reference Source 2:

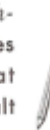
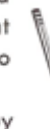
##### The Alligator

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- 1 The American alligator lives in swamps, lakes, and marshes. It does not often leave fresh water. Alligators have webbed toes. When swimming, they fold their legs along their sides. Their long, strong tails send them swiftly through the water. They have a long, flat head, shaped so that the eyes, ears, and nose are the highest points on the head. They lie hidden in the water, breathing easily and looking like a log. Only the eyes, the ears, and the tip of the nose show. Black bony plates cover their bodies.
  - 2 Flaps of skin keep water out of the alligator’s ears. Clear eyelids cover the animal’s eyes while it looks around underwater. Even the alligator’s throat has a little stopper made of skin that keeps out water while its mouth is open underwater. When the mouth is closed, there is no large tooth showing as is true of the crocodile.
  - 3 An alligator’s skin is so tough that before modern rifles were invented, bullets could not penetrate it. The skin is watertight and has no sweat glands to keep his body from drying out. The color of the skin is a dull olive gray. Young alligators have yellow marks across their bodies, which fade away as they grow older. Alligator skin was once popular for making durable leather articles, such as handbags and ladies’ shoes.
  - 4 Alligators hunt food mostly at night. About three-fourths of the alligator’s food is little creatures such as insects, shrimps, crabs, and crayfish. Larger animals like water birds, turtles, fish, muskrats, and snakes are eaten when the alligator is grown. In rare cases,



alligators have eaten bears. They seldom attack people.

- 5 Alligators are five or six years old before they have young ones of their own. In the spring the female alligator pulls together a big pile of leaves, grass, cattails, decaying vegetation, and mud. This pile may be four to seven feet wide and two to three feet high. She may work three days and nights building her nest. She digs a hole in the top of the nest pile with her back feet. There she lays her twenty-five to sixty eggs about the size of a large goose egg and then covers them over with more nesting material.
- 6 The eggs are incubated by heat from the sun and from decaying vegetation. God has given alligators the ability to keep the temperature of the nest just right. The female alligator stays around the nest to keep the eggs from harm because some animals, such as raccoons and skunks, would eat them. The eggs hatch in about eight weeks.
- 7 Mother alligators help their young alligators in several ways. Often newly hatched alligators have trouble getting from the nest pile. When they peep for help, the female alligator comes and rakes away the leaves and mud to set them free. Because many predators like to eat young alligators, the mother sometimes helps them reach the nearest water by carrying them there in her mouth or on her head.
- 8 Alligators know how to swim as soon as they are hatched. The young may stay in the same water hole with their mother for a year or two. Sometimes they climb on her back or the back of another alligator to sun themselves. They may eat food their mother or another alligator has caught. A large alligator that has killed a pig or some other animal swims about with big chunks hanging out of its mouth. The mother and other alligators allow the babies to come and nibble at the food hanging from their mouths.
- 9 Mother alligators call their young by grunting like a pig. Baby alligators cry with a moaning grunt that sounds like *umph-umph-umph* at a high pitch. After the age of four, young alligators' voices change and they begin to bellow. The sound is a little uncertain at first, but with practice the voice gets deeper and louder. An adult alligator has a throaty, bellowing roar that can be heard over a mile away.



When an alligator bellows, he raises his head slightly but keeps his mouth shut. He blows out his breath in a series of long, rumbling roars. An alligator's roar has been described as sounding like thunder, the voices of a thousand bullfrogs, or the the rumble of a passing train. In a swamp, the bellow of an alligator can actually send tremors through the ground that can be felt.

## Due November 11

This week you are going to follow the same format as last week, except you are focusing on a new topic for your research: the body of an alligator.

Complete this on Tuesday:

In class, we read the first article, highlighted the facts that were relevant to the body of an alligator, and wrote notes. Remember not every paragraph had information for our topic. Please read over your notes and make sure they are neat and complete. Go back to the source and check that you found everything and your spelling is accurate. Now type your notes. Title it “Notes on the Body from Source One”

Complete this on Thursday:

Go to the second source, read it, highlight the facts that are about the body of the alligator, and type your notes and title it “Notes on the Body from Source Two.”

Complete this on Friday:

Read over all your notes and group them into subtopics such as head (include jaw, shape, throat, eyes, ears), main body (can you see all that needs to go here?), and skin. As you find these subtopics, you need to organize them.

Since you typed your original notes, it will be easy for you to copy and paste them into your subtopics.

Open a new document and title it “Subtopics for the Alligator’s Body.” Type the name of the subtopic in a bold print and then put the relevant fact under it, place the document number in (1) after the fact. You can refer to your work from last week.

**\*\* Bring to class your two sets of typed notes and your typed subtopics for the alligator’s body for a grade. \*\***

## **Due November 18**

This week you are going to create two outlines - one for the habits of an alligator and one for the body of an alligator. Review your notes from class and review what you have already learned about making an outline. The habits of the alligator will have 6 subtopics and the body of the alligator will have 3 subtopics. When you have finished your outlines, please check them against the samples below. Remember that your order can be different from the samples, but you should have all the information present.

**\*\*Bring to class two complete outlines for a grade.\*\***

## The Habits of an Alligator

- I. Keeping warm or cool enough
  - A. Basking in the sun
  - B. Hiding in burrows
- II. Digging burrows, dens, and “gator holes”
  - A. Size and shape
  - B. Usefulness
    - 1. Hibernation
    - 2. Help to other animals
- III. Eating habits
  - A. What they eat
    - 1. Mostly fish
    - 2. Different foods for different sizes
    - 3. Special treats
    - 4. Unusual objects
  - B. How they catch food
    - 1. At night
    - 2. Under water
    - 3. With help of tail
- IV. Nesting habits
  - A. Construction of nest
  - B. Description of eggs
  - C. Fierce guarding by female
- V. Caring for young alligators

A. Setting young free

B. Feeding the young

VI. Sounds made by alligators

A. Mother alligators' call

B. Baby alligators' cries

C. Young alligators' bellows

D. Adult alligators' roars

## The Alligator's Body

### I. Head

#### A. Shape

1. Is long and flat
2. Has eyes, ears, nose at highest point
3. Has long snout

#### B. Jaws

1. Have heavy, sharp teeth
2. Are powerful
3. Are weak when closed

#### C. Throat - flap closes in water

#### D. Eyes

1. Have three eyelids
2. Have transparent lids that close under water

#### E. Ears

1. Are hidden under flaps
2. Can hear well

### II. Main Body

#### A. Shape - long and narrow

#### B. Tail - powerful

#### C. Legs and feet

1. Short legs
2. Webbed feet

D. Rate of growth

1. Are about 9 inches when hatched
2. Grow about 1 foot a year
3. Grow up to 12 feet
4. Weigh up to 500 pounds

III. Skin

A. Tough scales

B. No sweat glands

C. Attractive appearance

1. Made into purses

2. Made into boots

D. Color

1. Dull olive gray

2. Yellow marks when young



## **Due December 2**

This week you are writing your essay! You will need to write 5 paragraphs this week. Remember each paragraph must have an introductory sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence. You will want to incorporate transition words and use strong verbs.

**\*\*\*Bring your five paragraphs to class.\*\*\***

### **Due December 9**

This week you are writing the last four paragraphs. Review your notes from class and get busy typing!

**\*\*Bring to class your completed rough draft of your alligator essay and a rubric!!\*\***

### **Due December 16**

This week you are revising and editing your final draft. Look over the rubric and carefully make sure you have met all the requirements.

You should order your paper this way: on top your final essay, followed by a clean rubric, then your two outlines.

	<b>Below</b>	<b>Meets standard</b>	<b>Exceeds standard</b>
1st paragraph: main idea Details Concluding sentence	1	4	5
Second paragraph main idea Details Concluding sentence	1	4	5
Third paragraph main idea Details Concluding sentence	1	4	5
Fourth paragraph main idea Details Concluding sentence	1	4	5
Fifth paragraph main idea Details Concluding sentence	1	4	5
Sixth paragraph main idea Details Concluding sentence	1	4	5

Seventh paragraph main idea Details Concluding sentence	1	4	5
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	<b>Below</b>	<b>Meets standard</b>	<b>Exceeds standard</b>
Eighth paragraph main idea Details Concluding sentence	1	4	5
Ninth paragraph main idea Details Concluding sentence	1	4	5
Formatting Name, date, font size...	1	3	

2 examples of alliteration - underline them	1	2	3
3 examples of strong verbs - circle them	1	2	3
3 examples of interesting adjectives used - box them	1	2	3
Sentence variety	1	3	5
Overall strong writing	1	5	8

Total \_\_\_\_\_/70

Comments:

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