

# WHAT IS THE D.E.E.D. WRITING METHOD?

The **D.E.E.D. Writing Method** stands for Define, Explain, Example, and Describe. It is a concise 4 sentence paragraph that organizes student's thoughts into a precise and focused answer based on 4 distinct critical thinking skills:

**Define:** What is it?

**Explain:** Why is it important?

**Example:** What are two or three examples of it?

**Describe:** What does it mean to you personally?

The **D.E.E.D. Writing Method** is the basic standard short answer expected on all ESL Literature Project assessments. It is meant to transition ESL students away from 'one-word answers' and into communicating with complete sentences. These are collected in a journal of literary terms. Sentence Frames are provided in the following example:

## **D.E.E.D. Sentence Frames:**

**(Define)** This is a \_\_\_\_\_.

**(Explain)** It is important because \_\_\_\_\_.

**(Example)** Some examples of this are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

**(Describe)** I like it because \_\_\_\_\_.

## **D.E.E.D. Writing Example:**

*Question: What is your favorite holiday?*

**(Define)** A holiday is a special day we remember every year. **(Explain)** Holidays are important because we meet our family and friends and give respect to our country and culture. **(Example)** There are many examples of holidays including Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day, and Christmas. **(Describe)** My favorite holiday is Halloween because I love to wear costumes, collect a lot of candy, and I really like to listen to scary stories.

The **D.E.E.D. Writing Method** helps students understand the expectations of an advanced student answer and techniques for improving their academic writing.

## Scoring Guide for Quiz D.E.E.D. and Paragraph Writing.

There are four different criteria to be scored. Each has a maximum of three points. Therefore, each paragraph is scored out of \_\_\_\_\_ 12 pts.

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>3 pts</b>	<b>2 pts</b>	<b>1 pt</b>
<b><i>Ideas &amp; Content</i></b>	Ideas are well developed, strong, engage the reader and create interest. Supporting examples are detailed and effective. The answer is consistent and relevant to the question.	The ideas are stated clearly but only slightly engage the reader. Supporting examples are present. The answer attempts to be relevant to the question.	The ideas are basic. Supporting examples are given but are not interesting.
<b><i>Organization</i></b>	Organization is logical and structured. Transitions are used effectively. <i>(For D.E.E.D. the writing skills are ordered clearly and progress gracefully.)</i>	Organization is attempted but not strong. Transitions are used but not completely. <i>(For D.E.E.D. the writing skills are only partially demonstrated.)</i>	There is no organization. Transitions are not used. <i>(For D.E.E.D. the writing skills are not demonstrated or understood.)</i>
<b><i>Sentence Fluency</i></b>	Writing is smooth, skillful, and coherent. Sentences are strong and complete. Expressions are used effectively.	Writing is clear and understandable. Sentences have varied structure but can be understood. An attempt at expressions are used.	Writing is not clear. Sentences are confusing, containing fragments or run-ons. No expression used.
<b><i>Conventions</i></b>	Punctuation, spelling, capitalization are correct. No errors. Handwriting is clear, neat, and presented well.	Punctuation, spelling, capitalization are generally correct with some errors. Handwriting is clear.	Distracting errors in punctuation, spelling, and capitalization. Handwriting is unreadable.