Process Analysis Essay

1. Select from one of the three topics and develop a thesis (Concrete Detail and Commentary):

What makes a successful student?

What is your perfect study space?

How do you learn?

1. Use Class Brainstorms to help you decide on topic and develop your own Bubble Chart for your topic.
2. PROCESS ANALYSIS techniques. There should be a progression of things you need to do.
3. Use Jane Shaffer Paper Organizers: Quality and 3 examples (EX. Organization (binder, agenda, location of materials)
4. Use Guidelines for Process Analysis to evaluate your own writing and 1 peer.

Guidelines for Process Analysis

1. Overview: A **process** is an operation that moves through a series of steps to bring about a desired result. A process can be *natural* (the birth of a baby), *mechanical* (starting a car engine), *physical* (dancing), or *mental* (reading). **Analysis** divides something into its parts in order to understand the whole more clearly. To write a process-analysis essay, you need to go through three steps: (1) divide the process you are going to explain into its individual steps; (2) show the movement of the process, step by step, from beginning to end; and (3) explain how each step works, how it ties into other steps of the sequence, and how it brings about the desired result.
2. Purpose: Usually you will write a process analysis to accomplish two purposes: *to give directions* and *to provide information*. You might also write a process analysis to demonstrate that (1) a task that looks difficult is really easy or (2) a task that looks easy is really quite complex.
3. Audience: First, you need to decide whether you’re writing *to* an audience (giving directions for those who are already interested in your topic) or writing *for* an audience (providing information for those might be more casual readers on the subject). Second, you have to determine how wide the knowledge gap is between you and your readers. Finally, remember to analyze a process effectively, you must either research it carefully or have firsthand knowledge of its operation.
4. Strategies: The best way to write a process analysis is to organize your essay according to five parts:

Overview (define the objective of the process)

Special Terms (tools, tasks and methods that need definition)

Sequence of Steps (identity and number the steps in the sequence and groups them into larger units. Also, you need to give a reason for their order)

Examples (Pictures, Anedotes, Variants (alternative steps), Comparisons

Results (How do you know it is done? How do you know it’s good?)