Quarter 1 – Midterm Study Guide

Part I: Reading and Writing

Every paragraph has a main idea. The main idea is the big idea that is the focus of the entire paragraph; it is the most important idea in the paragraph. The sentence which states the main idea, or the topic of the paragraph, is called the topic sentence.

Supporting ideas and details explain and back up the main idea. They help the reader to understand the idea presented in the topic sentence.

The concluding sentence is usually the last sentence of the paragraph. It brings the paragraph to a close by summarizing the main idea.

Author's Purpose

An author's purpose is his or her reason for writing. IN general, writers create literature to entertain, inform (explain), or to persuade.

- Literature that entertains is created for the enjoyment of the reader. This generally refers to fiction. It may contain elements of action, adventure, and mystery.
- Literature that informs is written for the purpose of giving the reader information. For example, newspaper articles and textbooks are written to inform.
- Literature that persuades is written to convince or influence a reader.

Theme

Theme refers to the message about life and the world that the author wants us to understand. When reading a text, you can determine the theme by looking for the "big ideas" about life. Theme can be stated directly (the author tells you what it is, such as in a fable), or it can be implied—this means that the author gives you clues about the theme, but doesn't come right out and tell you. Look at what happens in a story and what the characters learn to determine the theme.

Tone

Tone is the attitude that a writer takes toward a subject. One way that writer's convey tone is through word choice (diction). Tone can also be revealed through punctuation and sentence structure. For example, a writer's use of exciting words and exclamation points might convey a tone of exhilaration. If a writer uses short, choppy sentences, it might show that he or she is impatient.

Part II: Sentence Structure

- A <u>simple sentence</u> expresses one complete thought; it contains one subject and one verb.
- A <u>compound sentence</u> is made up of two simple sentences. The simple sentences are joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction (fanboys: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)
- A <u>complex sentence</u> is made up of two simple sentences joined by a subordinating conjunction (3,2,1,1,2,3 : after, although, as, before, because, if, since, unless, until, when, whenever, while)

1. Snakes are solitary creatures and even hunt alone._____
2. Although not all snakes are deadly, humans often fear them._____
3. Snakes have no legs, but they can slither along the ground rapidly._____
4. A rattlesnake has poisonous fangs._____
5. These fangs are folded inside its mouth until the snake needs them to kill prey._____

Pronouns

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of one or more nouns.

<u>Types of pronouns</u>:

Subject – I, you, he, she, it, we, they **(acts as the subject of the sentence)**

Object – me, you, him, her, it, us, them **(comes after the verb in a clause)**

Possessive – mine, his, her, hers, its, your, yours, their, theirs, our, **ours (shows ownership)**

Indefinite – few, many, all, each, someone, somebody, anyone, anybody **(not quite sure who is being addressed)**

Interrogative – who, whom, whose, which, what **(used to form questions)**

Reflexive – myself, himself, yourselves **(all end in self, as if you are looking at yourself in a mirror - your reflection)**

Demonstrative – this, that, those, these **(4 T's)**

Label the pronoun that is underlined.
1. Do you think <u>your</u> team will be able to beat them? _____
2. <u>We</u> asked the teacher questions about pronouns. _____

Organizational Structure

Organization structure is the way authors present their information. Authors use different structures depending on their purpose.

<u>Sequencing</u>: events are in the order in which things happen
<u>Cause and effect</u>: tells what happens and why

1. Which organizational structure would be best to explain why the Civil War started and the results of the war? _____
2. Which organizational structure would be best for a "how-to" passage? _____

Comma Usage
- After a dependent introductory clause in a complex sentence (these clauses begin with subordinating conjunctions such as if, when, because, after, and before)
   - Ex: Because it was raining so hard we decided to skip football practice.
- After an introductory phrase
   - Ex: On the morning of January 7th the pond froze over.
- To separate three or more items in a list
   - Ex: Jesse went to the mall to buy some sneakers two shirts a pair of jeans and a pair of running shorts.
- To separate city and state
   - Ex: I live in Monroe Georgia.
- To separate two independent clauses joined by coordinating conjunctions (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)—compound sentences
   - Ex: Phillis Wheatley wrote many poems and her poetry even impressed George Washington.