

Assignment Contest—Verb Tense  
English 81  
Higgins  
2009

Scoring: This assignment counts as one of our paragraphs, so it will be worth 100 points for each group member. To get an 'A', you must be present every day that we work on the assignment and you must be able to articulate what you've done to contribute to the group. In addition, the assignment must fulfill the requirements described below.

In your group, you will write an assignment sheet to enter into the class contest. The class will vote on their favorite assignment.

Requirements: To be considered for the contest, the assignment must include the following things—

- It must specify which of the following **verb tenses** most of the paper will be in
    - a. Simple present
    - b. Simple past
    - c. Present progressive
    - d. Past progressive
  - It must describe a **desired effect** with regard to verb tense. For example, simple past tense tends to have a retrospective (looking back) effect.
  - It must include a **strong purpose**
  - It must specify the **action/method** the writer is undertaking—use a clear verb (describe, analyze, tell a story/narrate, etc.) Tell whether the writer is to tell a story, describe a scene or event, analyze the pieces of an image, persuade the audience, compare and contrast two ideas or events, or define a term (such as courage). Ask me if you'd like to give the paragraph a different goal.
  - It must include a **theme** or **central idea**; you may not ask people what their "dreams" are
  - The assignment must be **original**. It must be conceived of and written by you and your group members. Remember that plagiarism is one of the most serious academic offenses.
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- You may use any of the materials in our book including photographs, the quotations bank, or stories & essays. You may not, of course, copy one of the writing assignments in the book.
  - You may use creativity—walk around campus looking for issues that must be changed, for example, if you're thinking of writing a persuasive paper.
  - You may not use the Internet to search for assignments.
  - You may not require us to watch a full-length movie to complete the assignment, though you can ask us to watch an easily available video clip of a few minutes' length.

**Note that the basic guidelines below will accompany the assignment. You cannot change these.**

**Basics**

- **This is a paragraph, not an essay.**
- **Include a topic sentence**
- **Pay attention to unity and coherence**
- **Include plenty of examples and supporting details**
- **Use transitions**
- **Write a concluding sentence**