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Dr. John J. Ruszkiewicz
Director
Freshman English Policy Committee
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Austin, Texas 78712-1164

Dear Dr. Ruszkiewicz:

Thank you for your letter of February 12, 1985,
requesting more information about my proposed study.

To respond to the anticipated questions,

1. Each student will be reading nine passages. Each passage is approximately 100 words long and is adapted from either The Academic-American Encyclopedia or The World Book-Encyclopedia. The texts are organized on the basis of three of Kinneavy's writing modes, i.e., narration, description, and classification-definition. For the titles of the passages, please see the enclosed copies.

The students will write what they remember from reading the passages. I hope the students in the group which has been presented with the modes will develop their recall protocols on the basis of the modes.

2. The presentation of the writing modes and the students' written responses can reinforce the material taught in Units II and IV of E 306.
3. The instructors are welcome to make use of the students' protocols if they so desire. Copies of the protocols will be made available.
4. The delayed recall session will take a maximum of one class period as there will be no reading involved.

5. Ideally, I would like to be able to randomly select participants from across the classes who have knowledge of the modes of writing as specified in the August 1984 E 306 Syllabus and from those classes in which the discussion of the modes per se has not taken place. If all the E 306 sections have had the modes, I would select at random a total of about twenty-two individuals from two or three classes. Then the instruction in the modes will comprise only a brief recapitulation of the three modes of paragraph or theme development.

If there were sections in which the modes have not been covered, I would like to select about twenty-two of them and form them into the control group.

If you anticipate that the Committee may have other questions, please let me know. I would be happy to arrange to be at the Committee's next meeting to answer those questions.

Sincerely yours,

Suraprom Puangmali

Suraprom Puangmali

BEES

Bees, belonging to the superfamily of insects Apoidea, are subdivided into several families: social, solitary, or parasitic.

Of the 20,000 species, only 500 are social. They form colonies of from several hundred to 80,000 individuals and place their nests close to each other. There usually are a single queen and a worker caste of nonreproductive females which secrete wax from which they build the nests.

Most other species are either solitary--secreting no wax and nesting in the ground or similar niches--or parasitic in the nests of others. The queen constructs her own nest of one or more brood cells, which she stocks with pollen and nectar.

DESERTS

Geographers categorize deserts as one of two major types which, together, contain an almost unlimited variety of landscapes, vegetation communities, climates, and natural resources.

Deserts of the first group are the result of large-scale climatic patterns. They develop in regions of persistent high atmospheric pressure, where descending air masses are compressed and heated. Examples are the Sahara, and western coastal deserts of South America.

The second type of deserts form behind any large mountain range which creates a rain shadow effect by preventing moist ocean air from moving inland. Examples of rain-shadow deserts include the Mojave of Nevada and eastern California.

VOLCANOES

There are three major types of volcanoes. The most fluid magmas erupt quietly and flow from the vent to form gently sloping shield volcanoes, so called because they resemble early Germanic warriors' shields. The volcanoes of Hawaii and Iceland are typical shield volcanoes.

The second type has magmas with high gas contents and high viscosities. These magmas are more explosive than those flowing from shield volcanoes. These gas-rich magmas are usually blown high into the air during an eruption.

The third type is composite volcanoes, most of which are the tallest. These form from a cycle of quiet eruptions followed by explosive eruptions.

CANBERRA

Canberra, the national capital of Australia, is located in the Australian Capital Territory, an enclave in New South Wales. Canberra is small compared with most state capitals, but it is Australia's largest inland city.

Canberra is a model of city planning and rigid zoning. Its focal point is a large artificial lake. Another distinguishing characteristic is Canberra's landscaping. The many trees and shrubs have been carefully selected to provide variety in color and texture. For instance, the city gives free plants to new homeowners. Other visual attractions are the official buildings--especially the embassies--the National Library, and Parliament House.

QUAGGAS

The quagga is a type of zebra which is now extinct. The species once inhabited the steppes of southern Africa in large numbers but was exterminated in 1863, owing to the great demand for their strikingly beautiful hide.

Quaggas belonged to the horse family. They had the typical zebra striping, but it was confined to the forequarters, neck, and the entire head, whereas the stripes occur throughout the entire body for the zebra. Thus their stripes were less prominent than those of other zebras, and their back was a solid yellowish brown. They occurred in small herds of 15 to 20 individuals.

GRAY WHALES

Pacific gray whales are enormous creatures: they weigh between 30 and 40 tons and measure up to 45 feet in length.

Each winter about 12,000 Pacific gray whales migrate 5,000 miles south from the frigid Arctic seas where they feed to the lagoons of Mexico's Baja Peninsula where they give birth and nurse their calves.

Huge as they are, whales are amazingly docile mammals. During their three-month-long migration, sometimes they swim alongside the numerous tourist boats which ply the California waters. Occasionally the whales bump up against the boats, allowing passengers to touch their rubbery, wrinkled hides.

MARTIAL ARTS

The Asian styles of martial arts came to ancient China from Tibet and India, where they were used by monks for exercise and as protection against bandits. From China the martial arts spread to the rest of Asia, reaching Japan last.

In Japan, the martial arts prospered. During the 1600's-1800's, martial arts training was reserved for warriors serving feudal lords and was forbidden to peasants, who practiced in secret. Because of the illegality and secrecy, legend and myth flourished. Martial arts were incorporated into pre-World War II Japan's military training programs. Practice of martial arts was banned after the war until the mid-1950's.

CALIFORNIA WINE

In the New World, European colonists endeavored to produce wine wherever possible and were particularly successful in South America, and California.

California's earliest vineyards were planted by Franciscan monks in 1769, but it was not until the mid-1830's that wine was produced on a commercial scale. The industry grew, despite cyclical setbacks, until the devastation to the wine market caused by prohibition, beginning in 1920. Following repeal in 1933, the California wine industry revived gradually; in 1934, the California Wine Institute was founded, and following World War II, the University of California became a center for wine research.

RUSSELL

Bertrand Russell was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he remained as a fellow for six years and a lecturer for another six years. Then he was dismissed because of his active defense of socialism and his opposition to World War I. His early pacifism, which had led to his imprisonment in 1918, evolved into a dedicated activism against nuclear armament, for which he was again briefly incarcerated in 1961.

Throughout his life Russell was highly regarded as a prolific writer in fields such as logic, mathematics, short works of fiction, and politics. In 1950 he received the Nobel Prize for literature.

HINDU WORSHIP

Hindu worship takes many forms. Typical Hindu daily worship includes home worship, and a visit to a temple.

Home worship, which requires the services of a Brahmin (Hindu priest), involves purification of the area through fire, water, and the drawing of symbolic diagrams. The rites include offering food, flowers, or incense to a family deity, together with recitations of sacred texts.

The priest also carries out temple worship, the cycle of which centers on the daily life of a god which may be different from the family god. This form of worship involves waking him up, purifying him with incense, bathing, dressing, and feeding him.

ROCKS

Rocks are classified as igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic according to how they formed.

Those which solidified from molten material (magma) are called igneous rocks. The molten material, from which all igneous rocks form, may issue as lava from volcanoes.

Sedimentary rocks form by the accumulation of sediment or mineral particles which have either settled from a state of suspension in air or water or have been precipitated from a state of solution.

Metamorphic rocks are those which have undergone marked transformation, in response to heat, pressure, or chemical alteration. Rocks such as igneous and sedimentary rocks may be so changed into metamorphic rocks.

WAR

There have been many kinds of wars. One is war for land to live on. In ancient times, people often fought so that they could get enough to eat. The second type is war for wealth. The people of ancient empires fought many wars for wealth. Generally a ruler wanted to collect taxes from the people in the territory invaded. The third kind is war for power. The great European nations fought wars to gain or increase their power. The last type is war for security. Most countries fear the possibility of attack, and will occasionally engage in war to prevent future unexpected attacks.

SIAMESE FIGHTING FISH

Twelve species of *Betta*, a genus of labyrinth fish--so classified because of its labyrinthine chamber above the gills--occur in lowland freshwaters of Southeast Asia. One species is the famous Siamese fighting fish, which grows to a length of up to three inches.

For centuries this species has been selectively bred for fighting, and the males fight to the death in captivity. In the wild, the male fights to defend territory. He builds a nest of bubbles at the surface among aquatic vegetation. After courtship, he gathers the fertilized eggs into his mouth and spits them into the nest to develop further under his guard.

FERN

The most conspicuous part of the fern is its leaves, or fronds; the stem and roots are relatively inconspicuous. The stem is usually a rhizome that creeps on or just beneath the soil level.

One of the most distinctive features of ferns is the characteristic shape of the leaves. In most other plant groups the leaves enlarge in all directions at once, but in ferns they mature progressively from the base to the tip, resulting in a coiled juvenile leaf, called a crozier or fiddlehead. As the frond matures at the base, it gradually unrolls until the entire leaf has expanded.

WALKING STICK

The walking stick, making up the walking stick family, is an insect that looks like a twig. The strange appearance of this insect hides it from its enemies. There are several kinds of these insects in the United States. The common walking stick of the Eastern states has long legs and a slender body that is 2 to 3 inches (5 to 8 centimeters) long.

Unlike most insects, it has no wings. It may be brown or green. It eats leaves, and sometimes harms trees. The female usually drops her eggs on the ground. The young are neglected, and few survive.

LONDON

London was founded as the Roman town of Londinium in AD 43, and the Roman wall, patched and repaired, continued to protect the medieval city. The importance of London declined following the 5th century, during the period of Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian invasions. Gradually, however, the importance of the city's site along the Thames reasserted itself, and it became a prosperous trade center. In the early 11th century London became the seat of government of the last Anglo-Saxon kings, and in 1066, when the Normans invaded Britain, William the Conqueror granted London its charter and made the city his capital.

MOZART

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a musical child prodigy, began writing minuets at the age of five, symphonies at nine, and operas at twelve. He played the keyboard and became a violin virtuoso as well. Thus, his father, a concertmaster, took him on concert tours in Europe. He continued his European concert tours into adulthood.

Later, Mozart became a court organist in Salzburg. Here, he composed splendid church works and a new opera. This showed that he was a consummate master of opera seria. Then, he went to Vienna, where his composing career became promising. His concerts were also a great success.

TEXAS RANGERS

The Texas Rangers originated in the 1820's as a volunteer corps to prevent Indian attacks; their exploits became legendary. In 1835, the rangers became an official, full-time corps which was paid to defend the frontier.

Texas was admitted to the Union in 1845. Thus, frontier protection became a federal responsibility and the rangers then reverted to a volunteer, militia-type organization. They fought in federal service during the Mexican War, winning national attention for their skill and bravery. Reorganized in 1874, the rangers became a statewide law-enforcement agency responsible for suppressing feuds and riots, controlling cattle thefts, and capturing train robbers.