

ASSIGNMENT

Read the following essay carefully and answer each question.

The Restaurant

On any given weekend, young people get together for an evening of fun. Friends gather to go to the movies, to a local meeting place, or to a trendy restaurant. These are normal activities, but not for me. I am a server. While my friends are socializing at get-togethers or in restaurants, I work in the dining room of a popular eating place. It is 8:00 p.m. and I scan the restaurant and take in the action – people from all walks of life interacting with each other.

In the left corner of the restaurant are several small round tables, and at this moment, they are all occupied. At one table, I can see a group of four young women. They are laughing heartily. The thinnest one has just finished telling a joke. These women are wearing brightly colored career outfits; they probably decided to go out directly after work. It is, in fact, a Friday night. At the table just to the right of these women sits a couple. She is nervously playing with the diamond ring on her left hand. Are they arguing? They are hunched forward, and their faces are tense. Perhaps they do not want others in the restaurant to hear what they are talking about. The man is holding his cup tightly. The woman anxiously begins to tear her napkins into tiny pieces. I am glad that I cannot hear what they are saying; their body language speaks more loudly than any words that I could ever hear.

In the center of the dining room things are happening. Five men in their thirties and forties are sitting around a table directly in front of a large tropical plant. They look happy to be here. They are talking and laughing. One guy whispers something to the guy next to him, and the other three insist that these two reveal what they are whispering about. The oldest guy is elegantly dressed in a cashmere sweater. The other four are wearing long-sleeved shirts. Because all five of them are wearing ties, they must have just come from the office. Every now and then, one of them will touch the table a few times as he is speaking, perhaps to emphasize a particular point. To me, it appears that they are having a very lively discussion, and each of them cannot wait to jump in to offer something to the conversation.

In the far right corner of the restaurant, a middle-aged man is sitting alone. I can smell his top-of-the-line cologne whenever I pass by as I head to the kitchen. Although he is alone, he is definitely not lonely. His state-of-the-art cell phone has not left his ear since he came in. I cannot tell whether his phone call is business or pleasure because he alternates from serious tones to lighthearted chuckles. Every once in a while, he asks his server to refresh his cup of coffee. He adds sugar and stirs his coffee rather loudly, but the noisy clinking of the spoon against his coffee cup is drowned out by the music that is being played.

This is my job. I take food orders and watch people, from couples fighting to people having a good time talking. I do not pretend to be a psychologist, but it is interesting to watch people interact. My job might not be the most socially rewarding job in the world, but every night I learn something new about the nuances of human interaction. That makes me happy.

1. What is the main idea of the essay?
2. Find the sentence in Paragraph 1 that is similar to the topic sentence of “Scenes from a Restaurant”
3. In the Introduction (Paragraph 1), what is the hook?
4. In the Conclusion, how does the writer connect the conclusion of the essay to the introduction of the essay?

Outlining of the essay

I. Introduction

A. Hook: _____.

B: Connecting information: _____.

C: Thesis: _____.

II. Body Paragraph 1 Topic sentence: _____.

A: _____.

Support 1. _____.

2. _____.

3. _____.

B: _____.

Support 1. _____.

2. _____.

3. _____.

4. _____.

III. Body Paragraph 2 Topic sentence: _____.

A: _____.

Support 1. _____.

2. _____.

3. _____.

B: _____.

Support 1. _____.

2. _____.

IV. Body Paragraph 3 Topic sentence: _____.

A: _____.

Support 1. _____.

2. _____.

3. _____.

4. _____.

V. Conclusion

A: _____.

B: _____.