“What is your reaction to last night’s announcement that Donald Trump is our president-elect?” I asked my students, eleven hours after the official announcement. My goal for this class session was to let students share their observations and opinions about this historic event. The momentous nature of the election made it a “teachable moment,” of course, especially as an exploration of critical thinking skills. But emotions seemed to me to be high, and as students began sharing opposing points of view, I realized that, to reach the goal of identifying critical thinking skills, we first needed a safe place to share contentious and potentially divisive opinions.

Some students offered claims for which they provided no support; they were claims that I thought were – at best – inaccurate and, therefore, misleading. The claims that concerned me most dealt with the Black Lives Matter movement and information about it. My body tensed as I strained to remain silent. Although I had asked for details regarding claims dealing with other issues, this one was so sensitive (to me, at least) that I was afraid that if I did question the information, I would have shut-down freedom of expression. Without that feeling of free expression, we would not be able to explore critical thinking.

This combination of fear and tension that a person feels when trying to help people explore important skills and topics is (now) called angstion. The word “angstion” is a combination of “angst” (German for fear) and
Introduction uses narrative and detail to catch the intended reader’s attention.

Use of a word that is central to this essay.

Detail provides support and, ideally, heighten the reader’s interest. These words represent another key components of this new word.

This sentence helps to explain the importance of the new word.

Thesis Statement

This sentence explains the reasoning way for the way in which the term was created.
tension. It can apply to K-16 classrooms, to professional development
situations in business and in not-for-profit agencies, and to situations in
which agency supervisors are training volunteers or interns.

Emotion is key here because it is important in persuasion, and education is
a persuasive endeavor: The teacher or trainer is working to convince the
student to believe and/or behave in a certain way. Researchers such as
LeDoux (2002, p. 1192) and Phelps (2004, p. 199) define emotion as a
process through which the mind helps the individual recognize and
defend against danger by rating the importance of an object, event, or
situation to the individual’s survival. When an instructor experiences,
angstion, he or she senses a situation that threatens the survival of
people’s working relationships, which can hurt his – and his students’ –
professional lives. As a result, his body prepares – tenses – into fight-or-
flight mode. A person can experience this sensation in two situations,
each of which represents a specific kind of angstion.

Pedangstion refers to angstion in an educational situation. In this case, the
“ped” prefix comes from the ancient Greek term for teacher
pedangstion during that class discussion. A professional trainer, in
contrast, would experience profangstion, which is angstion in a
professional-development situation. Pedangstion and profangstion differ
in the relationship between the
discussion facilitator (teacher or
trainer) and his or her audience.

One key difference in that
relationship is that a teacher can
fail a student, but a trainer is
probably a person who is hired
The word “trainer” helps tailor the essay to the intended reader.

APA format for in-text citation.

This is also an example of synthesis: The ideas of two authors are paraphrased into a single idea.

It is also an example of the way in which quotes and paraphrases should be integrated into the essay.

This sentence builds coherence by serving as a transition into the next paragraph.

The naming and descriptions of two subcategories of the term.

Explanation for this subcategory word’s derivation.
by a company to train the company’s employees, so he or she might not be able to fire a trainee (an employee).

Like many other words, angstion has connotative meanings in addition to its denotative meaning. Ironically, perhaps, for audience members, the term could connote an exciting and very engaging argument. For a teacher or trainer, however, it connotes an unsettling sense that the relationship between audience members might rip apart, and pandemonium will end the session. Because of the potential severity of pandemonium’s consequences, the reader might equate angstion with anxiety. Angstion is similar to “anxiety,” which Nyatanga and deVocht (2006) define as, basically, fear of death. These authors write that anxiety is “an unpleasant emotion of multi-dimensional concerns that is of existential origin” (p. 413); however, angstion is different from anxiety in that angstion identifies physical tension as part of its definition, and in that it is specific to a certain set of situations.

About three weeks before the election, I experienced mild angstion during our Deliberative Dialog. At that event, students faculty, and people from Cortland County’s business, government, not-for-profit, health, and education communities gathered for an exploration of ways in which we could improve economic opportunity in Cortland County, especially for our low-income neighbors. The 35 people who were seated around the table represented liberal, progressive, and conservative viewpoints. Certain steps might have kept the discussion from degenerating into chaos: We used open-ended questions and
The word’s connotative meanings.

This sentence strengthens coherence by transitioning into the distinction between angstion and anxiety.

These two sentences introduce the quote in the way that we have discussed in class.

Definition of a term within the new term

This paragraph concludes the essay with a narrative, which is the same strategy that I used to introduce the essay. The narrative serves as a subtle clue to the reader that the essay is about to “wrap-up.”

Use of the term in a sentence.

A statistic adds precision to the essay.

This is a service-learning experience.
paraphrasing to keep all ideas “on the table” and clear, and we wrote ideas on poster-size Post-It notes so that everyone could feel assured that their ideas were recognized and valued. The discussion was productive: We identified a dozen topics that smaller groups could collaborate on.

[Need a second quote!]

[Need a second service-learning experience!]

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Obviously, these are reminders regarding two of the essay’s requirements.

APA format for References section.

A reminder regarding the requirement for at least three articles found through our library’s electronic databases.

Two articles found through our library’s electronic databases

Have two paginated articles.