

# **KQED Perspectives Unit Curriculum**

By Ruth Corley, The San Francisco School

## **PREWRITING**

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### **Lesson 4: The Structure of a Five-Paragraph Essay**

Objectives:

- Students will understand the components of an essay.
- Students will complete an outline of their Perspective.

Estimated time: One or two 50-minute class periods

Recommended Perspective models:

- The San Francisco School: “Spend More Time with Them” by Gabriel, “Relationships with Siblings are Complicated” by Raul, and “One Room for Me” by Crystal at <http://www.kqed.org/radio/programs/perspectives/sfschoolproject.jsp>
- Youth Radio: “Homework Fails” by Elizabeth Moore at <http://www.kqed.org/epArchive/R612050737> and “Between Homes” by Helen Porter at <http://www.kqed.org/epArchive/R411150737>

Steps:

1. Essay Structure: I begin this lesson by drawing the image of a hamburger on the board. I explain that the structure of an essay is a lot like the structure of a hamburger: the buns are the introduction and the conclusion holding everything together, while the juicy details are in the middle. You might find it helpful to create a handout, or to have students create a drawing, that they can reference throughout the writing process.
2. I play a Perspective and as a class we identify the components of that essay. Do this by drawing a blank hamburger outline on the board and fill it in with the details of the Perspective.
3. Outlining: Students are now ready to outline their Perspective essay. They can use a blank hamburger outline, a web, or a standard outline format.