Sample Outline of a Definition Essay
Samples of Actual Definition Essays

OUTLINE - Patriotism Definition Essay

I. Introduction
   A. Attention getter: Traditional definition of patriotism (as perceived in an image)
   B. Thesis: Patriotism is speaking out when a person feels the country is right or wrong, voting, campaigning, and respecting others.

II. Body
   A. Speaking out when country is wrong
      1. Vietnam
      2. Slavery
      3. Women’s right to vote
   B. Speaking out when country is right
      1. Afghanistan
      2. Health care
   C. Voting
      1. Making a choice based on one’s needs
      2. Being involved in the voting process
   D. Campaigning
      1. Finding a candidate who represents country’s needs
      2. Barbara Boxer from California
   E. Respecting others
      1. Paying taxes.
      2. Respecting others’ points of view
      3. Arab-American prejudice after 9/11.

III. Conclusion
   A. Review of patriot as protestor, voter, and respectful citizen.
   B. Closing attention getter: return to introduction's image of patriot