

313 words, column #31
Java Talk
(for November 22, 2007 to November 28, 2007)

Every Age Is The Best Age

The Essay: The Full Moon in November

I definitely appreciate the art of writing essays, as a reader and a writer. I understand how this style of writing is not only a way to learn, and to clarify my thoughts, it also helps me to communicate effectively and concisely, which is especially useful when I am trying to make a point by using approximately 300 words, in a way that will be appropriate for this week's column.

An essay is easily recognized because it will have a title, usually with a colon inserted between two connecting ideas, to clarify the subject matter; an introduction; a thesis; and a conclusion. The introduction needs to be interesting enough to capture the readers' attention. For example, according to *The Old Farmers' Almanac*, which has been around since 1792, and is "North America's oldest continuously published periodical," the full moon in November is known as the Full Beaver Moon, "because for both the colonists and the Algonquin tribes, this was the time to set beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs" (<http://www.almanac.com/>). The age of this periodical and that there is a full moon this week grabbed my attention.

Next, and most important, there must be a clear thesis which states exactly what the paper will be about and how the writer proposes to support their position. The rest of the essay must not digress from or fall short of this stated thesis! A good essay must support its position with examples of some sort. Also, the writer must always cite their sources correctly (*The UVic Writer's Guide*, <http://web.uvic.ca/wguide/>).

Then, finally, there must be a good conclusion. For example, if I had said I would attempt to write an essay about writing essays in approximately 300 words, and did it, I would mention this. (If it took 400 words, I would go back and revise my thesis).

Deidre Hill