

B Academic Phrases

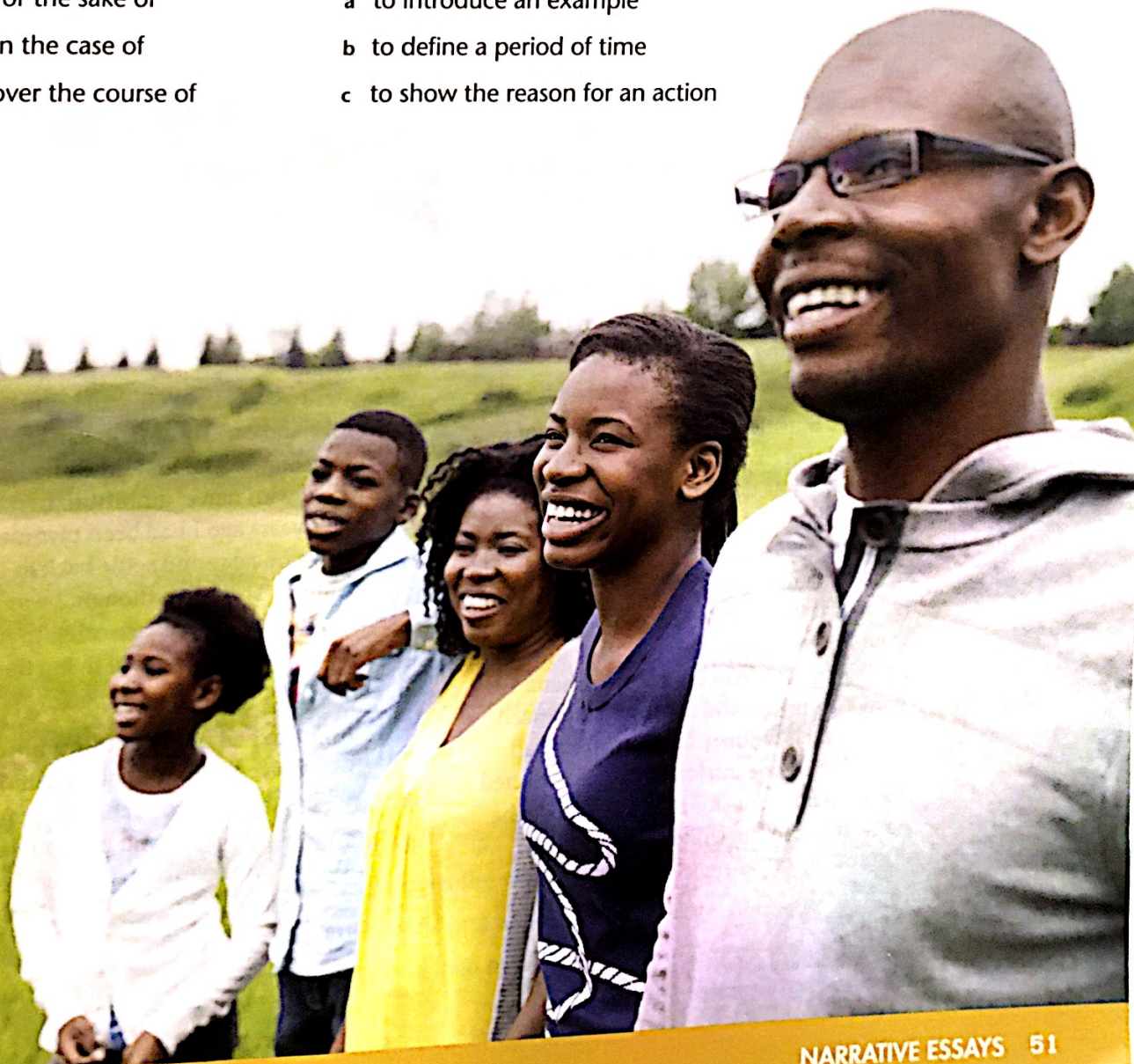
Research tells us that the phrases in bold below are commonly used in academic writing.

ACTIVITY 2.2 Focus on Purpose

Read the paragraph. Then match the phrases in bold next to the purpose, or reason why the writer used them.

People immigrate for many reasons. Some immigrate in order to leave behind a bad situation at home. Others come to a new country **for the sake of** their family. They hope their children will receive a better education or have more opportunities in a new place. Still others come to find better economic opportunities. **In the case of** the Laval family, they moved to France because Mr. Laval felt that he could find better work opportunities than he could at home in Haiti. Living in a new country was stressful at first and required a great deal of adjustment. **Over the course of** several years, however, the family got used to their new life.

PHRASE	PURPOSE
..... 1 for the sake of	a to introduce an example
..... 2 in the case of	b to define a period of time
..... 3 over the course of	c to show the reason for an action



Now read the article. Think about...

ROBERT KOSI TETTE

AN IMMIGRANT'S SILENT STRUGGLE

(ADAPTED)

1 "I want to be just like you," the young man said. He was an onion seller, sitting in the hot tropical sun by the side of the road. He wore an extra-large T-shirt and over-sized jeans that reflected the influence of American pop culture that was everywhere in Africa. I had accepted a seat at his onion stand to take a break before concluding business in Accra that afternoon. Between brisk¹ sales serving customers stuck in traffic, he asked incessant² questions about life in America, convinced that having a visa to the United States was like winning the lottery. How could I tell him that I envied his simple innocent life? How could I tell him that I was guilty of creating a false **image** of Africans living abroad?

2 From the outside, I looked the picture of success. I wore a white designer shirt and matching pants that I had bought in a megamall in Detroit, where I worked as an engineer. My clothing suggested that I was a wealthy man, yet the truth was that I could not afford the numerous requests for money from my relatives or even to make gifts of my belongings. When I had left Ghana 10 years ago, uncles and aunts had sacrificed much to raise money for my trip abroad. Now these same uncles and aunts expected me to finance cousins hoping to make the same move to the United States.



3 After two weeks in Ghana, I was in fact broke and eagerly **anticipating** my return to the States. The first time I had left, I was fueled with naïve³ **ambition**. In fact, until a few years ago I had been planning to return one day and settle back in my home country. This time, though, I was leaving knowing that I was returning to America to face the challenges of living there permanently.

4 America had fulfilled my **ambition**. I had arrived with the equivalent of a high school diploma, and after 10 years, I hold a graduate degree and have a relatively successful professional career. That is not to

¹ brisk: quick and active

² incessant: never stopping

³ naïve: too ready to believe something

say it had been easy. Every inch of progress had been achieved through exhausting battles. My college education had been financed partly through working multiple minimum-wage jobs. Upon graduation, I had gotten a job, but **adjusting** to corporate culture was **initially** very difficult. Then, nervous about job **security**, I went to graduate school part time to give myself an edge in case of job layoffs. And I had spent a small fortune in legal fees and had endured many **stressful** years for **the sake of** becoming a permanent resident in America.

- 5 Living in America had been like running a marathon, and I had hoped that my trip back home would provide me with some rest and relaxation. But it had not worked out that way. Instead, I felt as though I were drowning in conflict. Part of me wanted to settle permanently in America. But another part of me longed to escape the **complexities** of life

there and to return to the uncomplicated life I once knew in Ghana – the life perhaps of the onion seller.

- 6 Most of us leave home never realizing how much we would change. We also never think about how our experiences might scar us. I suppose my experience is no different from any other immigrant's to America. I am torn between the culture I have entered and the culture I have left behind. I am learning though to accept my new identity and to embrace the blend of the two cultures that exist in me. I have also learned that if I work hard and give something back to loved ones in Ghana, I might turn a life of disenchantment⁴ into one that is rich and fulfilling.

⁴ disenchantment: no longer feeling the value of something

ACTIVITY

2.3 Check Your Understanding

Answer the questions.

- 1 Why does the author consider the idea of returning to Ghana?
- 2 How is the author's trip to Ghana different from what he expected?
- 3 Have you ever had the experience of feeling "torn between two cultures," as Robert does?

ACTIVITY

2.4 Notice the Features of Narrative

Answer the questions.

- 1 Look at the last sentence of paragraph 1. What does this line show the reader?
 - a The author will present his point of view on U.S. – Africa relations.
 - b This piece of writing will tell a personal story.
 - c The author is proud that he is a businessman.
- 2 What do you think is the purpose of the essay?
 - a To tell a story about how immigration changes the way you feel about your home country
 - b To compare and contrast the economies of Ghana and the United States
 - c To persuade readers in Ghana that it is a bad idea to emigrate to the United States