

Composition 1: Who (or What) Do Ya Love?

Essential Question: How do writers persuade others of the quality of a product or person?

PROMPT: Assume that you are being paid by a magazine such as one of the following to write a feature article nominating a person or a product for an award. Using three criteria for subtopics, persuade your readers of the praiseworthiness of this individual.

Gifted Differentiation: GIEP students will choose a literary topic, identifying an author or book for an award...New York Times Book of the Year

- *Rolling Stone* Musician/Group Of The Year
- *Guidepost* Friend Of The Year
- *Education Digest* Teacher Of The Year
- *Gaming Quarterly* Video Game of the Year
- *Parents* Parent Of The Year
- *Sports Illustrated* Athlete/Coach Of The Year
- *Entertainment Weekly* Celebrity Of The Year
- *Talk Soup* Talk Show Host Of The Year
- *Seventeen* or *YM* Boyfriend/Girlfriend Of The Year
- *Dirt bike* Rider Of The Year



TOPIC SENTENCE: As _____ magazine's nominee for _____ of the Year,
TITLE OF MAGAZINE TITLE OF AWARD

_____ exhibits the following praiseworthy traits: _____, _____, and _____.
PERSON/PRODUCT SUBTOPIC 1 SUBTOPIC 2 SUBTOPIC 3

INTRODUCTION IDEA: Try asking a rhetorical question—one that has multiple answers from different perspectives—see the model essay.

CONCLUSION IDEA: Discuss how your life of others' lives might be different were it not for this individual.

Focus Skills

1. TS/Subs/Intro/Concl
2. Frag/Run
3. Sp
4. Square Echoed Subtopic Transitions
5. Word Choice Suitable to Audience
6. 3.5 Pages Final Copy Calibri or Arial 12

***1 Citation / MLA Works Cited Required**

Mega-Tips for Content

- Write about someone whom you know personally unless you plan on doing a little research. Instead of a website or magazine, you may conduct a personal interview with this person to satisfy your research requirement.
- If you cannot get enough detail with examples and facts, tell anecdotes. Be a story-teller.
- Make your word choices fit the intelligence, maturity, age, attitude, and knowledge level of your magazine's typical reader. You may want to get a copy of the magazine to study the language.

“The Case for His Excellency, Mr. Donald J. Trump”

What should American society look for in its presidential candidates? Should they be honest and firm about their opinions? Do they need to have experience in the political realm or in the business realm? Must their hair be subjected to intense public scrutiny or praise? In the midst of email controversies and perpetual lying on the part of politicians, the fact is that many Americans covet honesty above all in their search for a presidential candidate. They feel that with a faltering economy, career politicians should be replaced with businessmen whom they believe can balance a budget. At the same time, they cannot resist taking into account how pleasing, or appalling, it is to gaze at the keratin emerging from the prospective president's scalp. Regardless of what one wants in a presidential candidate, the only option in 2016 is to vote for His Excellency, Mr. Donald J. Trump. As *The Onion's* nominee for Candidate of the Year, Donald Trump exhibits the following presidential traits: **honesty and firmness**, a We-inspiring ethos from the **business** realm, and, of course, the most **scrupulous locks** ever to grace the eyes of man (or beast).

His Excellency seems to be the only candidate in the entire field, Republican or Democrat, who has **honest and firm** opinions. Forget a moment that all Trump specifically has said that he wants to do when he becomes president is to build a wall along the Mexican border. In regards to his stance on immigration, Trump's unyielding ideas have propelled him to the top of the Republican polls with twenty-three percent of GOP voters choosing him as their ideal

candidate (Timm 3). Trump is adamant regarding his ideas on immigration, saying “We need to build a wall. And it has to be built quickly. And I don’t mind having a big beautiful door in that wall so that people can come into this country legally” (McLaughlin 1). Rather than take the time to consider what the most diplomatic policy or course of action the United States could take, His Excellency knows without a shadow of a doubt that the only way to stifle the flow of illegal immigration is to build a wall. Fear not, for our majesty’s potent opinions do not stall with immigration but overflow onto the topic of women. When pressed by Megyn Kelly at the GOP debate about presumably degrading comments he had previously made about women, Trump was very frank in clarifying that the only woman he sought to degrade was Rosie O’Donnell. Of course, because Trump perfidiously clarified that O’Donnell was the only woman he ever insulted, the rest of America should forgive him without asking another question. Regarding His Excellency’s honorable post-debate comment about how Megyn Kelly had “blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever” (Rucker 5), the public should evidently overlook it. He later clarified that he said “whatever” rather than “whenever,” rendering the suggestive comment excusable. Never mind the discomfort that could be created if he rises to the presidential office and directs these types of comments at the wrong Korea; Trump’s honesty should surely be admired.

The honorable Mr. Trump is not only skilled in delivering the truth; he is also a skilled businessman, which will undoubtedly make him the greatest world leader ever to walk the earth. Despite the fact that he has filed for corporate bankruptcy four times, Trump still maintains, “I have never gone bankrupt” (Wheeler 1). According to Trump, he has taken advantage of the law of the United States, just like every other business person has. His Excellency also notes that he has never *personally* filed for bankruptcy. It may be a comparable scenario that the United States LLC can go bankrupt, while the president, who at this point may happen to have an elaborate comb-over, does not personally go bankrupt. In this sense Trump is perfect for the job—with a U.S. national debt nearing \$20,000,000,000,000, he’ll be

accustomed to running organizations that claim to be successful while running on nothing but an illusion that they can pay their bills. How exactly Trump plans to make America great again is not yet certain. What is clear is that our majesty is very rich, and because he is rich, his tentative presidency will go down in the history books as the most distinguished term of any American president, though he may have to purchase a publishing company before his term can be chronicled.

But a conversation about Honorable Mr. Trump cannot be complete without first discussing his locks. Subject to almost as much scrutiny as the man they grow from, Trump's locks are quite elaborate and seem to have their own distinct personalities. When the hair comes into contact with a gust of wind, it dances jubilantly on top of Trump's head. His mane is so outlandish that many have falsely accused him of wearing a toupee. To squelch this displeasing notion, His Excellency invited a supporter at a rally to join him on stage to examine his hair. Our majesty's subject then declared to the rest of the audience that Lord Trump's hair was, in fact, real. Fortunately for all of his lesser skeptics, Trump can only fire his own employees and contestants on "The Celebrity Apprentice". Something else to consider before casting a ballot for Trump is that he plans on exchanging his current iconic hairstyle for one that requires less maintenance...if he gets elected. Currently, the slicked-back style is his frontrunner for the replacement. If Trump does get elected, it may be wise to make sure that parents keep their children from watching the news. This will prevent many sleepless nights. One does not simply emerge from the womb with hair like Donald Trump's. To replicate His Excellency's distinctive comb-over, one would first have to age at least sixty years and then brush one's hair in four different directions. The first section would be swept under the second to cover the top of the head. The third and fourth sections would be manipulated to cover the back of the head.

Regardless of how abstruse His Excellency and his hair-brained ideas may seem, no one can deny that Trump, much like a pet dog or a flashy piece of clothing, commands attention. His

honest and radical opinions about immigration have propelled him to the top of the Republican polls. His heated comments towards Megyn Kelly made sure that his name was in the headlines after the first GOP debate. Everybody knows the name “Trump” because of his substantial wealth and his business and media prominence. Even Trump’s hair succeeds in funneling attention away from the rest of the world. Whether the attention is deserved or not, it seems as though, recently, Trump’s hair alone has received more media coverage than Jeb Bush. He’s rich, eccentric, and he’s *The Onion* magazine’s nomination. How blessed are the American people to have a man such as His Excellency running for president!

Works Cited

- McLaughlin , Seth. "Donald Trump Vows to Build Border Wall, Says Mexico Will Pick up Tab." *Washington Times* . n.d. Web. 02 Sept. 2015.
- Rucker , Phillip. "Trump Says Fox’s Megyn Kelly Had ‘Blood Coming out of Her Wherever’." *Washington Post* . n.d. Web. 03 Sept. 2015.
- Timm , Jane C. "Ben Carson Ties Donald Trump in New Poll." *Msnbc.com*. NBC News Digital, 01 Sept. 2015. Web. 02 Sept. 2015.
- Wheeler , Lydia. "Trump Gets Heated with Chris Wallace: ‘I Have Never Gone Bankrupt’" *The Hill* . n.p., 06 Aug. 2015. Web. 04 Sept. 2015.

Reading 1: How Pure Were The Puritans?

1. In the closing line, what does Bradstreet imply is the ultimate reward for remaining "pure" and faithful to her marital partner in life?
2. Circle five money-related words that symbolize the fact that Bradstreet treasures her husband?
3. What hyperbole reveals the thirsting intensity of her love?

"To My Dear and Loving Husband"

Anne Bradstreet

If ever two were one, then surely we.
If ever man were loved by wife, then thee.
If ever wife was happy in a man,
Compare with me, ye women, if you can.
I prize thy love more than whole mines of gold
Or all the riches that the East doth hold.
My love is such that rivers cannot quench,
Nor ought but love from thee, give recompense.
Thy love is such I can no way repay,
The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.
Then while we live, in love let's so persevere [1]
That when we live no more, we may live ever.

[1] endure, persist—in this case, in the struggle to be faithful

State a Topic Sentence/Thesis Statement That Lists Subtopic

GUIDELINES FOR GOOD TOPIC SENTENCES

- Borrow as many of the key words in the original prompt as possible as you restate the essay directions into your topic sentence. Make sure that the topic sentence reflects accurately what you are asked to write about. Note how the key italicized words in the prompt below are echoed in the topic sentence.

PROMPT: Persuade *the Tyrone Area School Board* to *institute*, retain, eliminate, or change a rule or *policy* in your school.

TOPIC SENTENCE: *The Tyrone Area School Board* should *institute* a student-athlete drug testing *policy* because such a policy would reduce drug use among athletes, communicate to non-athletes that the school does not tolerate drug use, and build the confidence of the community in the quality of its schools.

- If you are writing an informative or persuasive essay, devise at least two subtopic ideas and mention them in the topic sentence. Narrative compositions do not need subtopic ideas.
- Never begin a topic sentence with these words, “In this essay I am going to tell you about...” This opening phrase is redundant since we know who is writing the essay, that it *is* an essay, and that you are writing it to some other “you” to read.

WRITING GOOD TOPIC SENTENCES

Write good topic sentences for [1] of these prompts.

1. Compare Tyrone High to a federal prison. INFORMATIVE
2. Persuade others why they should pay to see your favorite movie. PERSUASIVE
3. Tell about the most frightening experience you have ever had. NARRATIVE

Paragraphing

INFORMATIVE AND PERSUASIVE ESSAYS

Follow the traditional 5-paragraph structure when organizing your essays. That is, indent at the introduction paragraph that contains your topic sentence, at each of your three major subtopic sentences, and at your conclusion paragraph. Remember that if you have a multi-sentence introduction, you should not indent your topic sentence. Your topic sentence should be placed, non-indented, at the *end* of your introduction.

NARRATIVE ESSAYS

Narratives, or stories, follow different paragraphing structures than informative or persuasive essays. Narratives must have a topic sentence and some sort of closing sentence but need not have formal introductions or subtopic paragraphs. When do you indent then if writing a story? Indent when times or places change and when characters speak in dialogue. Other than these situations, it's really up to you when to indent in a narrative.

Subtopic Transitions

Transitions are cues to the reader that you are moving to a new idea in your writing. In grade school, we learn really simple and obvious transition words like *first*, *second*, and *third*. In middle school we become a little more discreet and subtle with phrases like *for starters*, *next*, and *finally*. In high school and college, subtlety is even more important in enhancing your style. The most discreet yet sure way to achieve transitions in your subtopic sentences is to echo the subtopic words that you mentioned in your topic sentence. These echoes are called semaphores. Note the echoing semaphores in the example below:

TOPIC SENTENCE: Tyrone High resembles a federal prison in terms of the rules, food, and architecture.

SUBTOPIC ONE TRANSITION: Certainly, the teachers and guards at Tyrone High enforce rules as if they were penitentiary personnel armed with AK-47's.

SUBTOPIC TWO TRANSITION: Of course, the cafeteria food at Tyrone High has all the allure of a prison mess hall.

SUBTOPIC SENTENCE THREE: The locker room, exterior, and courtyard architecture reflect the austerity of a prison facility.

Adapting Word Choice to Your Audience and Your Purpose

The words that we choose can either help us or harm us when it comes to achieving our purpose in writing. Always ask these five questions to make sure that your words are the right ones to help you achieve your goal:

1. Will my audience understand my **jargon**—that is, my technical language?
2. Will my **vulgarity or slurs** offend my audience?
3. Will my audience consider my **slang or colloquial** phrases too informal?
4. Will my audience find my vocabulary **too difficult**?
5. Will my audience react negatively to my **tone**?

Suppose that the following word choices appeared in the articles and magazines listed below. Which magazine audiences would you be hitting with the word choices used in the articles?

ARTICLE TITLE	WORD CHOICES	MAGAZINES
"McGwire's Success Secret"	"McGwire increased his RBI's while decreasing his K's."	<i>Sports Illustrated</i> or <i>Cosmopolitan</i>
"A Day in the Life of a Male-Bashing Groupie"	"Sylvia left me, and I haven't seen the slut since."	<i>Woman's Day</i> or <i>Rolling Stone</i>
"Why the Boyz are the Best"	"The Backstreet Boys seem like ordinary buds chilling in the hood."	<i>U.S. News and World Report</i> or <i>YM</i>
"Early Childhood Language Development Influences"	"Students usually emulate their parents semantically."	<i>The Daily Herald</i> or <i>The English Journal</i>
"Here's to the AK-47!"	"Those who support gun control are namby-pamby sissies who don't know their butts from the butt end of a rifle."	<i>The National Rifleman</i> or <i>Time</i>

Avoid Fragments and Run-Ons

What do all of the following statements have in common?

- A man across the street.
- Because you did not say hello to him when you passed him on the sidewalk.
- Although you did absolutely nothing wrong according to the letter of the law.

The answer is that if someone were to approach you on a street corner and say these words to you, you would have only a limited idea of what they were trying to communicate to you. This is the definition of a sentence **fragment** that we will work with. Notice that a fragment is not necessarily short, nor do fragments always lack subjects and verbs. The 2nd and 3rd examples above both contain subjects and verbs, but they are still fragments. What makes it a fragment is that it does not convey a full thought or idea that a reader or listener can process and comprehend. If someone approaches you on a corner and says something that needs further elaboration for full understanding, that group of words is a **fragment**, like "a man across the street." What about the man? Note below how the fragments in the box above become more meaningful in the box below:

- A man across the street **is aiming a gun at you**. [Now you would duck, right? That's a full thought that you comprehended and processed.]
- Because you did not say hello to him when you passed him on the sidewalk, **the man is going to pay you back**.
- Although you did absolutely nothing wrong according to the letter of the law, **you are about to die**.

Identifying **run-on sentences** is a much more scientific and precise skill. If you have combined more than three sentences with conjunctions like **and, but, or, nor, for, so** you have created a run-on. Also, if you combine even two sentences without using one of these conjunctions, you have created a type of **run-on sentence** called a **comma splice**. Just as fragments are not necessarily short, notice that run-ons are not always long. Below is an example of each type of **run-on**:

- I would study more often, but I get tired late at night, and I work until eleven so I do not get enough sleep as it is, and if I do not go to bed when I get home, I would never get up in the morning.
- You die, I live.

Identify the following as good sentences [G], fragments [F], or run-ons [R]:

1. When we beat Bellwood under a star-filled sky that glowed with the promise of a successful season.
2. As soon as I began to speak, my nervousness disappeared.
3. Fires do not just happen, they are caused by carelessness.
4. The Nevilles have a piano, but no one knows how to play it.
5. Male mosquitoes do not bite, they just live off the juice of plants.
6. Small fires should be put out before they become big ones.
7. Lois crossed her fingers for good luck, she was hoping to win the award.
8. People riding on their bikes in the heat of a late June afternoon.
9. I hate you, and you know it, but you insist on being my friend, so I resent that intensely.
10. The restaurant was crowded we had no time to wait.
11. Until the bird stopped singing merrily from the oak tree.
12. He breathes.
13. The way the cookie crumbles, pure and simple.
14. Hoping to meet you again next summer.
15. If your car swerves when stopping on roads that are neither icy nor wet, your brakes probably need to be adjusted.

A NOTE ABOUT STYLE

Sometimes it is appropriate to use fragments and run-ons in fiction and poetry primarily but also in essay writing in order to create a stylistic effect. For example, the first "sentence" of a mystery story might be, "A dark silence." If you use such a fragment, indicate your intent by marking it with an asterisk [*]. Such fragments and run-ons will not affect your grades on compositions.