

SAMPLE PAGES
from
The Competitive Edge

Passing the
EOG 7 in Writing

by Jane Hereford

*Pages from Chapter 8
are enclosed
to illustrate the quantity
and quality of exercises in this workbook.*

CPC

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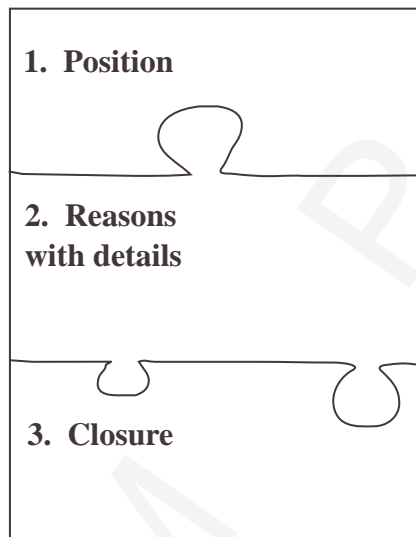
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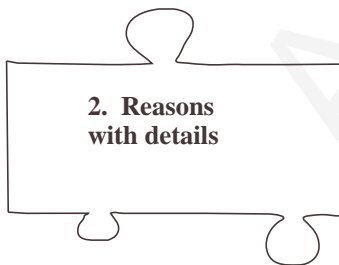
WRITING THE BEGINNING, MIDDLE AND ENDING OF AN EXPOSITORY COMPOSITION

➤ *The Pieces of Your Paper*

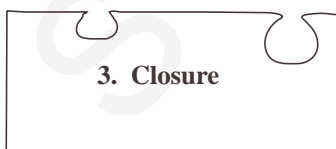
To construct your composition, you must have all the “pieces.”



First, you must explain/clarify a situation/position or defend a position. This will be determined by the prompt that is presented to you.



Second, you must give reasons with details to clarify your position to the subject matter.



Third, you must sum up the composition by restating your position, and reiterating your reasons.

➤ *Beginning Your Composition*

Every composition must have a beginning. The beginning of the composition explains/clarifies your situation/position or defends your position.

BEGINNING

EXAMPLE 1: CLARIFICATION COMPOSITION

Use the following prompt to write a good beginning of a composition.

 **Think about your favorite flavor of ice cream. Name your favorite ice cream and explain why it is your favorite.**

<p>Position</p> 
--

My favorite ice cream is pineapple.

What is my favorite ice cream? I like many of the flavors very much, but I definitely have a favorite. My favorite flavor of ice cream is pineapple.

In the beginning of this composition, a position that must be clarified has been stated.

EXAMPLE 2: POINT OF VIEW COMPOSITION

Use the following prompt to write a good beginning of a composition.

 **Take a position on whether the school year should be lengthened from 180 days to 200 days. State your position, and explain why or why not the school year should be lengthened.**

<p>1. Position</p> 

I think the school year should be 180 days.

School for 20 more days a year, no way! I believe that the school year should remain 180 days in length.

In the beginning of this composition, a position that must be defended has been chosen.

➤ *The Middle of your Composition*

After you have created the beginning of your composition, you must then continue with the middle of your composition.

In the middle of your composition you must state 2–4 reasons to clarify your relationship to the subject matter. These reasons must have sufficient supporting details.

TRANSITION WORDS

Transition words can help you move from the beginning to the middle and then to the ending of your composition.

Listed below are some transitions words that you might want to use.

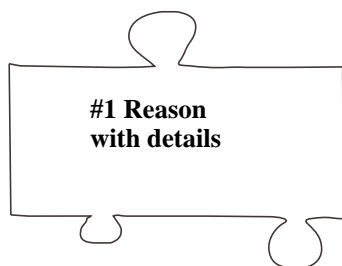
as a result	first
after	in conclusion
above	in addition
as soon	in fact
also	immediately
although	last
before	later
beyond	now
besides	second
below	tomorrow
finally	therefore
for this reason	yesterday

MIDDLE

EXAMPLE 1: CLARIFICATION COMPOSITION

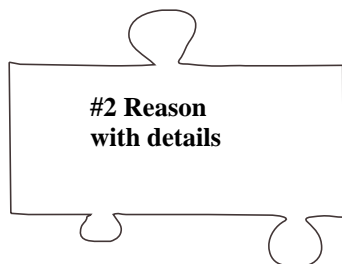
Referring back to the example on page 99, let's continue the composition and give it a middle.

Remember, this middle must provide the reasons, with supporting details, why I chose pineapple as my favorite ice cream.



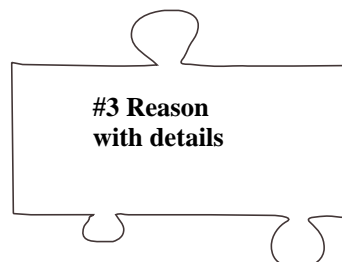
It has a wonderful taste.

1. sweet like cotton candy
2. tangy
3. sweet-sour effect



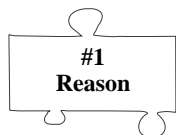
It is similar to my favorite cake—pineapple.

1. no time to make cake
2. pull out of freezer
3. imagine cake in mouth

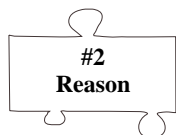


It reminds me of my vacation to Hawaii.

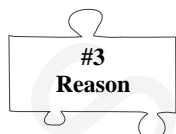
1. pineapple with each meal
2. never see Hawaii again
3. imagine scenes of Hawaii



As soon as I put the first spoonful of pineapple ice cream in my mouth, the wonderful taste reminds me of the sweetness of cotton candy. Then, after a few seconds, a sudden tang hits my mouth that makes my ears tingle. I just love that sweet-sour effect.



In addition, pineapple ice cream reminds me of my favorite cake, which is pineapple cake, of course. When there isn't time to make a scrumptious pineapple cake, I just go to the freezer, pull out the carton of pineapple ice cream and fill my bowl. When I put a spoonful in my mouth, I imagine that I am eating a 3 layer pineapple cake covered with luscious, white, sugary icing. What a great substitute when you are craving pineapple cake!

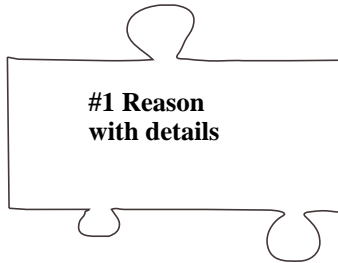


Finally, that tropical pineapple ice cream brings back the incredible memories of my Hawaiian vacation. I would eat those fresh, juicy pineapple slices at every meal. I will probably never visit that tropical paradise again, so every time I taste that savory pineapple in pineapple ice cream, I see those palm trees, hula dancers, orchids, flowered shirts and surfers in my mind. Pineapple ice cream just takes me away!

EXAMPLE 2: POINT OF VIEW COMPOSITION

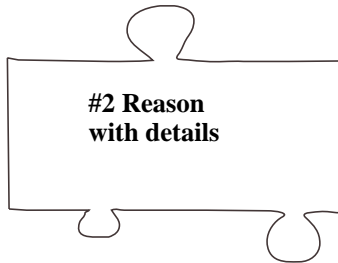
Referring back to the example on page 99, let's continue the composition and give it a middle.

Remember, this middle must provide the reasons with supporting details why you chose the school year to be 180 days.



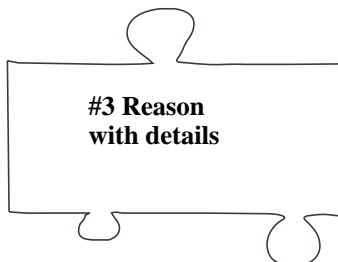
There are enough days to cover all material.

1. divide subjects by week
2. little or no disruptions



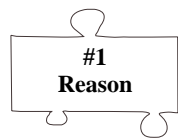
A long break is needed by everyone.

1. long vacations with parents
2. camps
3. visits with relatives

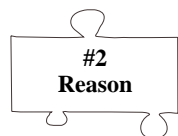


Time is needed by school staff to prepare for the next year.

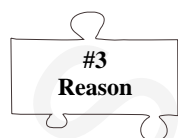
1. clean and repair school
2. schedule for next year



First of all, 180 days are enough to cover all the curriculum for one school year. If teachers and principals would divide all the subjects according to weeks in the year and cover the subject matter weekly, everyone would have all the subject matter covered for that year. The school could also make sure that there were few or no disruptions in the school day so that all the material gets covered each day.



Second, everyone needs a long break after 180 days of schoolwork. Families like to take long vacations together when parents can take off from work, kids like to go to camp or go on long visits to relatives, and long summers are the perfect time for these activities. Lengthening the school year would only make it harder for parents to schedule these events.



Besides, principals and school workers need plenty of time during the summer when the kids aren't there to prepare the school for the next year. They must paint, clean and wax floors, order materials, repair anything that is broken, and prepare class schedules for students and teachers. If the year were longer, these duties would not all be accomplished before the first day of school.

PRACTICE

Use the beginnings from pages 100–105 to continue writing. Add middles to your compositions after deciding on reasons for your position.

1. Reasons / Details: (Use as many as needed.)

1. _____

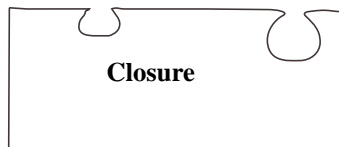
2. _____

3. _____

➤ *Ending of the Composition*

Now it is time to end the composition. The ending should sum up all your reasons for your position. Let's continue the compositions and add an ending, a closing for each.

EXAMPLE 1: CLARIFICATION COMPOSITION

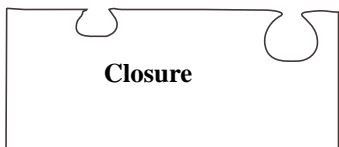


Restate position and reiterate reasons.

Pineapple ice cream is the best ice cream to me. I love its sweet-sour taste, its similarity to pineapple cake, and its ability to send me down “memory lane.”

Now the composition is complete. We have closure.

EXAMPLE 2: POINT-OF-VIEW COMPOSITION



Restate position and reiterate reasons.

In conclusion, I believe that the school year should remain the length of 180 days. The year is long enough to cover the curriculum, students need some time off with parents and some time alone, and school staff need time to get ready for the next school year.

Now the composition is complete. We have closure.

