

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tips and Tricks

to Ace

Original Compositions

This year, students across grade levels will write TWO original compositions on a given topic. The first one will be on **Wednesday September 18** – you **MUST** attend at all costs.

What is an original composition?

Let's break it down:

Original: _____

Composition: _____

Therefore an original composition is: _____

Where do I start?

Step 1: Brainstorming. Take a second. Breathe. Read the topic two times and write everything that comes to mind down. It doesn't matter if you actually use it in your essay – that's the beauty of brainstorming. Write it ALL down.

Step 2: Based on your brainstorming, decide whether you agree or disagree with the topic. Why?

Step 3: Sorting and Planning. Now that all of your ideas are written down, go through them and sort out which ones you want to use, and which ones that don't really relate. Play the Sesame Street Game in your head to find your main ideas.

Step 4: Plan out your essay: Introduction, THESIS, Body Paragraphs, and Conclusion.

Step 5: Write your essay. Double Spaced. In Ink.

Step 6.: Read through and EDIT where you need to.

Name: _____ Date: _____

It's boring.

“The problem isn't the problem; the problem is your attitude towards the problem.”
– Johnny Depp

Think of the best book or the best movie you've ever read or watched. Why was it the best? Because, it told a story and somehow you could relate to it. Narrative Non-Fiction is the best way to engage, capture, and teach your audience.

Narrative: _____

Non-Fiction: _____

Therefore Narrative Non-Fiction: _____

So: tell a story.

In your introductory paragraph, agree or disagree with the topic (THESIS). Then in the body paragraphs tell a non-fiction story that proves why you agree or disagree. No one can tell a story about your life or what happened to you, better than you can.

Use your experiences and tell your audience about them.

Practice Topic: Role models influence our lives.

- Brainstorm
- Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Sort
- Plan
- Write

In groups of three, brainstorm, agree/disagree, sort, and plan your essays. ON YOUR OWN, write the first two paragraphs of your essay.