The **A, B, C’s** of Writing!

A - ____________________

B - ____________________

**Distinctions:**

__________________________________

__________________________________

__________________________________

C - ____________________

D - ____________________

E - ____________________
Please read each of the items and evaluate where you are by placing a number between 1 and 10 on the appropriate blank line. (1 = needs work, 5 = doing pretty good, 10 = great)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Finish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I enjoy writing in my spare time.</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can easily think about what to write.</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I enjoy sharing my writing with others.</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe I’m a clear and concise writer.</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I enjoy expressing my opinions through writing.</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I organize my papers before I write them.</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe being able to write well is a valuable skill.</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can write confidently in both personal and professional styles.</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can write a strong, engaging introduction.</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel confident in my writing abilities.</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My overall feeling toward myself as a writer ...</td>
<td>_____</td>
<td>_____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note-Taking: facts, dates, names, etc.</td>
<td>Note-Making: personal thoughts and feelings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
step 1: **APPROACH**

**type** of prompt is my essay trying to answer?

Your class took a trip to the Smithsonian American Art Museum to see *The Art of Video Games* exhibition. You learned about the 40-year history of video gaming systems, the art of storytelling in video games, and the future of video game technology. You are asked to write a presentation for the rest of the school about what you learned while on the trip.

You may have heard of IQ, which is a measure of someone’s general intelligence. You may also have heard of EI, which stands for emotional intelligence. It measures things like self-awareness and ability to get along with others. Which do you think is more important—having a high IQ or a high EI—for being successful in life? Why?

You’re planning your summer vacation. You’ve already chosen a gorgeous resort, but haven’t decided what form of transport to take. You’re not quite sure whether a train or airplane would be more comfortable and suitable. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of these two means of transportation for your trip.
| Note-Taking: facts, dates, names, etc. | Note-Making: personal thoughts and feelings |
**TOPIC 1: experts**

Everyone is an “expert” at something. Think of something you do well—anything at all. EXPLAIN how to do this so clearly and so completely that your reader will understand just what it takes to be good at this activity.

**TOPIC 2: leaders**

Leaders are necessary to any group: families, friends, teams, clubs, countries, and others. EXPLAIN what it takes to be an effective leader.
VAN GOGH

Using *see it* we can analyze pictures, graphs, and tables to support our writing. What do you see?
| Note-Taking: facts, dates, names, etc. | Note-Making: personal thoughts and feelings |
5 PARAGRAPH ESSAY:
good for expository, persuasive, argumentation, compare/contrast?

INTRODUCTION

HOOK:

ROAD MAP:

THESIS STATEMENT:

BODY PARAGRAPH
Topic Sentence:
Evidence and interpretation of evidence:
Analysis:

BODY PARAGRAPH
Topic Sentence:
Evidence and interpretation of evidence:
Analysis:

BODY PARAGRAPH
Topic Sentence:
Evidence and interpretation of evidence:
Analysis:

REPHRASED
THESIS STATEMENT:

OPEN QUESTIONS, WIDER RESULTS OF THE IDEAS PRESENTED IN YOUR ESSAY:

CONCLUSION
HOUSE ORGANIZATION:
good for persuasion, summaries, or responses to texts/ideas

DETAIL 1: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE TOPIC?

DETAIL 2: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE TOPIC?

DETAIL 3: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE TOPIC?

DETAIL 4: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE TOPIC?

DETAIL 5: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE TOPIC?

WHAT DO YOU CONCLUDE ABOUT THE TOPIC?
TWO-PART ESSAY:
good for persuasion, compare/contrast, pro/con essays

FIRST PLAN YOUR THESIS STATEMENT:______________________________________________

INTRO

HOOK ________________________________________________________________

TWO MAIN POINTS _______________________________________________________

THESIS STATEMENT _______________________________________________________

MINI-TOPIC 1:

WHAT I KNOW
1. ________________________________________________________________
2. ________________________________________________________________
3. ________________________________________________________________

SUPPORTING INFO
1. ________________________________________________________________
2. ________________________________________________________________
3. ________________________________________________________________

MINI-TOPIC 2:

WHAT I KNOW
1. ________________________________________________________________
2. ________________________________________________________________
3. ________________________________________________________________

SUPPORTING INFO
1. ________________________________________________________________
2. ________________________________________________________________
3. ________________________________________________________________

CONCLUSION

RESTATE TOPIC: ___________________________________________________________

WRAP IT UP: _____________________________________________________________

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Title

Thesis: __________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Summary: __________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Conclusion: ________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
draft: hook your reader

step 4: **DRAFT**

what words, phrases, and figurative language should I use? how should I transition from one paragraph to the next?

**HOOK YOUR READER:**

We know that first impressions matter. “Hook” your reader in the first sentence by using one of the strategies below, or an additional creative method you think is appropriate!

**Show-not-tell**

Similes

Metaphors

Personification

Analogies

**SHOW-NOT-TELL PRACTICE:**

**Self-Reflection:** which of the above strategies is the easiest for you? _________________________
step 4: **DRAFT**

**Words, phrases, and figurative language**

what words, phrases, and figurative language should I use to turn my ideas into paragraphs?
On the big screen, some professions capture the imagination through their portrayals of fame and fortune. But perception doesn’t always match reality. Years of difficult training, finding steady work and racking up exorbitant amounts of student debt are some of the drawbacks associated with jobs in the fields of entertainment, law and medicine.

Let’s take a closer look at why some of these jobs aren’t so ideal.

1. Actor/Actress: For a spot in the limelight, no formal education is needed, but it’s becoming more common for stage actors to earn a bachelor’s degree in theater. If you decide to self-train, it may take years before you solidify your acting skills enough to get a casting callback.

Acting can be physically demanding as well. Heat from lights or donning a heavy costume can make for an uncomfortable time on a set. Lastly, be prepared for critics to bash the work you’ve poured your heart and soul into.

What it pays: While the average salary for actors is a healthy $62,000 a year, according to SimplyHired.com, finding steady work can prevent you from building and sustaining a career. Jesse Eisenberg, star of “Zombieland” and “The Social Network” told BlackBook magazine that while becoming an actor is a great profession to pursue for escaping academics, it’s also an “awful business ... where every job ends in the procurement of other jobs.”

2. Professional Athlete: Professional athletes wow spectators with their supreme talents. But for those not naturally gifted, it can take years to fully develop athletic skills, either through high school and college athletics or private lessons. And as the Bureau of Labor Statistics points out, the odds of successfully making the leap to professional sports is, to put it charitably, slim. “In major sports, such as baseball and football, only about 1 in 5,000 high school athletes become professionals in these sports,” according to the BLS.

What it pays: If you’re lucky enough to make it, don’t expect Tiger Woods or Lebron James-type money. The average salary for athletes is $45,000, though it varies greatly by industry and experience, among other factors. If you do end up with a salary that runs into the millions, be aware of the trappings that follow it. As ESPN’s 2012 documentary “Broke” tragically showed, poor judgment on matters such as romantic relationships, investments and drugs left formerly rich athletes, including Mike Tyson and Curt Schilling, with empty bank accounts.

3. Musician and Singer: For a band like the Beatles, reaching the pinnacle of their profession didn’t prevent internal strife and bitter feelings in their rocky final years. As a solo act, you may not have the burden of dealing with group politics, but that doesn’t exclude possible entanglements with other strong personalities like controlling producers and record executives who may have a drastically different vision of your career than you do.

What it pays: Salaries differ between the two, with musicians raking in an average of $31,000 and singers taking home $72,000, according
Many musicians and singers experience periods of unemployment," the BLS reports. To simultaneously pursue your passion and make ends meet, prepare to work another job or have a separate business venture on the side.

4. Lawyer: After earning an undergraduate degree, plan on three years of law school, followed by the bar exam, a daunting test on state laws and ethical standards. Despite passing those educational hurdles, lawyers must still keep up with legal developments affecting their practices.

In 2011, 45 states required lawyers to participate in continuing legal education either every one or three years. Also, keep in mind that the market for lawyers is not expected to boom over the next decade. As the BLS notes, job growth for the profession is expected to reach only 6.9 percent by 2020, which is lower than other occupations.

What it pays: Financially, attorneys tend to do well: In 2012, lawyers made an average salary of $130,880, according to the BLS. But you have to factor in the education costs, as 2012 law school students graduated with an average debt of $108,293.

5. Doctor: With a work schedule defined by long and irregular hours, physicians' personal lives are at the mercy of their careers. If you’re on call, prepare for the possibility of being contacted by a patient during dinner with your family or a night out with your spouse.

And if you plan on becoming a surgeon, you’ll need a strong stomach for the routine sight of blood and an empathetic heart for delivering news about a lost loved one.

What it pays: With an average salary of $184,820, doctors were hardly pinching pennies last year. But the level of debt accumulated as a result of a grueling academic journey - undergraduate, medical school, internship, residency - can undermine financial gains. Including loans taken out for undergraduate degrees and excluding interest, the median debt for public and private medical school graduates was $170,000 in 2012. If you opt for forbearance during residency, your total repayment could reach $476,000 over the span of 25 years, according to the American Association of Medical Colleges.
graphic organizer

Thesis

1

2

3
Write on!
Think of an important event in your life, then write a poem about the moments just before or just after the event.

Think of a subject that “eats away at you” and write a poem that exaggerates it.

Write about something you love from the perspective of someone who hates it.

Think of something tiny and write about it, making it seem large.

Imagine you are an inanimate object. What is it like?

Write about something that no one else seems ever to have noticed … a time, place or thing, or a common occurrence (like the oil spot on the driveway, water draining in the bathtub, stepping off a bus, etc.)
“I am” Repetition Frame

I am (two special characteristics you have)
I wonder (something you are actually curious about)
I hear (an imaginary sound)
I see (an imaginary sight)
I want (an actual desire)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

I pretend (something you actually pretend to do)
I feel (a feeling about something imaginary)
I touch (an imaginary touch)
I worry (something that really bothers you)
I cry (something that makes you very sad)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

I understand (something you know is true)
I say (something you believe in)
I dream (something you actually dream about)
I hope (something you actually hope for)
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

Inspiration (example of “I am” Repetition Frame)

I am inspiring and searching
I wonder where my path may lead me
I hear the practical voices of reason
I see the purpose of controlling wishes
I want to be free
I am inspiring and searching

I pretend to have it all figured out
I feel doubtful and afraid
I touch nothing
I worry I won’t be safe
I cry for the possibilities and people I keep away
I am inspiring and searching

I understand time passing
I say I am ready to fly
I dream that I am
I hope it won’t hurt much to fall
I am inspiring and searching
ABC
The first letter of each line in the poem spells out the topic

SuperCamp
Standing at registration alone,
Unsure about where I am.
Promises made to come here,
Everyone seems weird.
Replace old ideas with new,
Cement has trapped me in the past.
About to face a new start,
Me and my new friends have courage.
Promises I can keep.

Mil Preguntas by Gary G. Gaffney
Each line is a question addressed to the world

Why is hating so easy and loving so hard?
Why is leaving so easy and staying so hard?
Why seek integrity when celebrity is enough?
Why seek depth when superficiality is enough?
Why seek?
Is being a hero worth the effort?

You, Me, Them, Us, You, Me Frame
Another pattern that a lot of different poems can fit into

You – So committed, so present, so tuned in to who I am. I’m scared that you won’t be there when I change.
Me – Unclear, confused, struggling between what is really going on in me and what needs to happen to strengthen our relationship.
Them – Judging, questioning, watching—or that’s what I imagine.
Us – To start fresh with you and stay committed. Can we?
You – Solid and sure foundations for the future.
Me – Wanting it all, counting the cost, again.
TWO-PART ESSAY:
good for persuasion, compare/contrast, pro/con essays

FIRST PLAN YOUR THESIS STATEMENT:

HOOK _____________________________________________________________

TWO MAIN POINTS

THESIS STATEMENT __________________________________________________

MINI-TOPIC 1:

WHAT I KNOW                                SUPPORTING INFO

1.                                                                 1.

2.                                                                 2.

3.                                                                 3.

MINI-TOPIC 2:

WHAT I KNOW                                SUPPORTING INFO

1.                                                                 1.

2.                                                                 2.

3.                                                                 3.

CONCLUSION

RESTATE TOPIC: ____________________________________________________

WRAP IT UP: ______________________________________________________
HOUSE ORGANIZATION:
good for persuasion, summaries, or responses to texts/ideas

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