



# #10155

## THE WRINKLE-FREE WORLD OF ENGLISH COMPOSITION: MODULE 1

CEREBELLUM CORPORATION, 2002  
Grade Level: 11-13+  
26 mins.  
2 Instructional Graphics Enclosed

### DESCRIPTION

Focuses solely on guidelines that show how to successfully write a college essay. Discusses an essay's general structure, its organization, and the relevance of its point of view. Stresses the importance of proper citations, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Notes that before writing begins, understanding the assignment is critical to a well-written paper.

### Academic Standards

#### Subject Area: Language Arts–Writing

- Standard: Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process
  - ♦ Benchmark: Writes persuasive compositions that address problems/solutions or causes/effects (e.g., articulates a position through a thesis statement; anticipates and addresses counter arguments; backs up assertions using specific rhetorical devices [appeals to logic, appeals to emotion, uses personal anecdotes]; develops arguments using a variety of methods such as examples and details, commonly accepted beliefs, expert opinion, cause-and-effect reasoning, comparison-contrast reasoning) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2 and 3.)

### INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To explain the basic structure of essays, including introduction, body, and conclusion.
2. To discuss general characteristics of college writing.
3. To introduce the writing process.
4. To understand a writing assignment.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

See the Standard Deviants Web site for a copy of Nathan's writing assignment and three drafts of his paper. Under "Helpful Cards," click on English Composition Summary Sheet B. (See RELATED RESOURCES.)

## VOCABULARY

1. academic prose
2. academic writing
3. body (of the paper)
4. cite
5. composing
6. conclusion
7. essay
8. paraphrase
9. plagiarism
10. sources
11. state your position
12. supporting evidence
13. thesis statement
14. transition sentences

## BEFORE SHOWING

1. List skills needed to succeed in college. Discuss reasons that writing is important in college.
2. Rate your personal competence and comfort in writing essays. List assumptions you make based on seeing another person's writing.
3. Prepare to take notes during the viewing of the video. Use the "General Characteristics of College Writing" instructional graphic as a guide. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)

## AFTER SHOWING

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Why do we write? What are some kinds of writing? What is composing?
2. Discuss characteristics of academic prose.
  - a. How do you state and support a position? What is the importance of a thesis?
  - b. What is the basic framework of an essay? What is included in the introduction, body, and conclusion? What makes a conclusion either strong or weak?
  - c. What is the importance of clear and logical organization? What is the importance of transitional sentences?
  - d. How can an essay show awareness of other points of view?
  - e. What is the importance of accurately citing the sources you use? What is plagiarism? What is the difference between quoting and paraphrasing?
  - f. What is Standard Edited American English? What tools can help in using correct English conventions?
3. What is meant by the statement, "The writing process is not linear"? What are the steps of the writing process?
4. Why is understanding the assignment an important first task? How can you define and clarify your assignment? What was the example assignment given in the video?

### Applications and Activities

1. Survey college students and graduates about writing in college and on the job. Consider a variety of college majors and careers.

## C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

2. Public speaking and essay writing require many of the same skills. Practice giving speeches for randomly chosen topics. Use the "General Characteristics of College Writing" instructional graphic as a guide. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.) Present and critique the speeches.
3. Write a paper using the assignment given in the video and at the Standard Deviants: English Composition Web site. (See RELATED RESOURCES.) Follow the "General Characteristics of College Writing" and "The Basic Structure of an Essay" instructional graphics as guides. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)

### CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [Essay What? #9910](#)
- [The Wrinkle-Free World of English Composition: Module 2 #10156](#)
- [The Wrinkle-Free World of English Composition: Module 3 #10157](#)
- [The Wrinkle-Free World of English Composition: Module 4 #10158](#)
- [Write an Essay #2547](#)

### World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

#### • STANDARD DEVIANTS: ENGLISH COMPOSITION

[http://www.standarddeviants.com/pls/brain/cerebellum.show\\_subject?p\\_subject\\_id=19](http://www.standarddeviants.com/pls/brain/cerebellum.show_subject?p_subject_id=19)

This Web page has a downloadable test and quizzes meant for use after Module 4, in addition to Nathan's writing assignment and three drafts of his paper.

#### • ABC'S OF THE WRITING PROCESS

<http://www.angelfire.com/wi/writingprocess/>

User-friendly online resource for students or teachers. Information and related links on prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.

- **GALLAUDET WRITER'S HANDBOOK**

<http://academic.gallaudet.edu/handbooks/writers.nsf>

Part of Gallaudet University's Dynamic Online Collaboration, this site has a teacher's guide, a student tutorial, a correction chart, a list of common errors, a quick reference section, and grammar exercises.

---

- **GUIDE TO WRITING A BASIC ESSAY**

<http://members.tripod.com/~lklivingston/essay/>

Following the writing process, this site gives specific instructions on essay writing. Includes samples and related links.

---

- **THE FIVE PARAGRAPH ESSAY WIZARD**

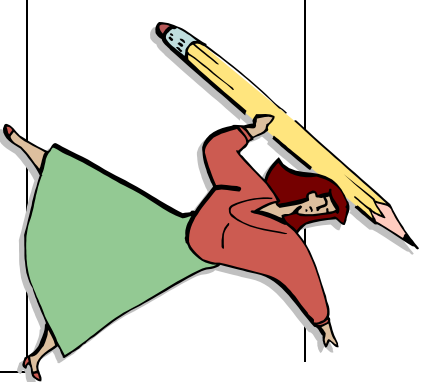
<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Atrium/1437/>

Includes tips and techniques for writing persuasive, narrative, and expository essays and for following the writing process. Provides varied prompts.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS**

- GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF COLLEGE WRITING
- THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF AN ESSAY

## General Characteristics of College Writing

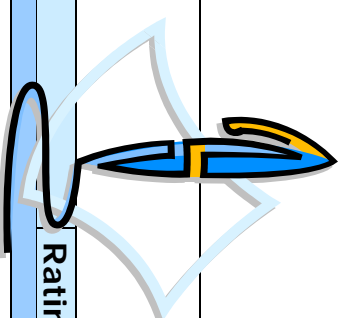


Directions: Take notes during the video by recording important points after “Remember.” Then write an example for each section. Use this chart as a checklist when writing an essay or giving an expository speech.

1. State and Support a Position	Remember:
	Example:
2. Organize Text Clearly and Logically	Remember:
	Example:
3. Be Aware of Other Points of View	Remember:
	Example:
4. Cite Sources Accurately	Remember:
	Example:
5. Use Standard Edited American English	Remember:
	Example:

### Captioned Media Program

## The Basic Structure of an Essay



Parts of an Essay	Your Essay Ideas	Rating
<h3>Introduction</h3> <p>Present your position in a thesis statement.</p>		
<h3>Body</h3> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Support your thesis with evidence, experience, statistics, quotes, and close observation.</li><li>2. Relate everything to the thesis.</li></ol>		
<h3>Conclusion</h3> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Do NOT restate your thesis and say, "I've proved it."</li><li>2. Leave the reader with a clear understanding of the points you have made and a fresh perspective. Reaffirm the thesis.</li></ol>		

[Captioned Media Program](#)