

## Language Arts 9

# Composition

This section of your notebook will contain all handouts and assignments related to writing:

- Utah Compose Login Name: \_\_\_\_\_ / Password: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Content/Ideas
  - Organization
  - Word Choice (Diction)
    - Voice
    - Fluency
  - Argumentation
    - Claim
  - Textual Evidence
    - Reasoning
    - Counterclaim
      - Rebuttal
      - Revision
      - Editing
      - Tone
      - Syntax
  - Handwriting/Penmanship

## Academic Essay Format

Many students are familiar with the “five-paragraph essay,” but the number of paragraphs is not as important as using the organizational pattern of a multi-paragraph academic essay to meet the following requirements:

- Answer the question! Address the prompt and the text it is based on. Your thesis statement (primary claim) should include a clearly stated answer.
- Explain your logic/reasoning: How did you arrive at your answer to the question? Why are your claims and conclusions legitimate? You have to make a clear and convincing argument or support a conclusion of your own. Explain the reasoning that led you to the conclusion.
- Do not just retell the story or summarize information that was in the text.

### I. Introduction

- a. Attention Getter/Hook
- b. Background Information
- c. Thesis/Primary Claim

### II. Body

#### a. Supporting Claim #1

- i. Textual Evidence A that supports/illustrates the claim
- ii. Reasoning A that explains how the evidence supports the claim
- iii. Textual Evidence B that further supports/illustrates claim
- iv. Reasoning B that explains how the evidence supports the claim

\*Depending on the sources and the assignment, there may be more than two pieces of textual evidence to support a claim, but two is a minimum. If you can't find at least two pieces of evidence to support a claim, it isn't a very strong claim.

#### b. Supporting Claim #2

- i. Textual Evidence A that supports/illustrates the claim
- ii. Reasoning A that explains how the evidence supports the claim
- iii. Textual Evidence B that further supports/illustrates claim
- iv. Reasoning B that explains how the evidence supports the claim

\*See above.

#### c. Supporting Claim #3

- i. Textual Evidence A that supports/illustrates the claim
- ii. Reasoning A that explains how the evidence supports the claim
- iii. Textual Evidence B that further supports/illustrates claim
- iv. Reasoning B that explains how the evidence supports the claim

\*See above.

Note: Depending on the assignment and the amount of time allotted, there may be more than three claims that support the thesis. The more ways you can support a thesis and rebut counterclaims, the more convincing your essay will be.

- d. **Counterclaims/Rebuttals:** Acknowledge potential counterclaims and offer logical rebuttals. Use evidence and explain reasoning in support of rebuttals.

Note: Sometimes it is more natural to address counterclaims one at a time in the body paragraphs where a particular claim is discussed, in which case, this section of the essay would be unnecessary and the above sections would be somewhat larger to accommodate the counterclaims and rebuttals.

### III. Conclusion

- a. Restates thesis in different words
- b. Summarizes claims/main points
- c. Clincher: Powerful closing statement

*Keep this page at the front of the Composition section in your English binder.*