

Name: _____

Date: _____

Composition 7 SW2 11-12

Expository

Instructions: Please complete pre-writing and final essay for grading. Make sure your final copy is on the lined paper titled **Final Copy**. You may use a **dictionary**.

READ the following quotation:

"Even if you fall on your face, you're still moving forward."
by Victor Kiam

THINK carefully about the following statement:

Kiam thinks that even when we make mistakes, we can move forward.

WRITE an essay explaining whether it is better to keep doing the same or to take a risk and move forward.

BE SURE TO

- Clearly state your controlling idea
- Organize and develop your explanation effectively
- Choose your words carefully
- Use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

Read the information in the box below.

A famous businessman once said,
"Players win games; teams win
championships."

Think carefully about the following statement:

Sometimes you can accomplish good things by yourself, but better things with other people.

Write an essay explaining whether it is better to work by yourself or with a group.

Be sure to –

- Clearly state your thesis
- Organize and develop your ideas effectively
- Choose your words carefully
- Edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Mid-Term
Expository Essay

“It is better to give than to receive.”

Some people feel that the act of serving others provides them with happiness and satisfaction.

Write an essay explaining whether you appreciate something more when it is earned or given to you.

Prompt for Expository Writing

Read the information in the box below.

“If at first you don’t succeed, try,
try again.”

Think about the above statement and why it is important to keep trying even when you are not successful.

Write an essay explaining why people should continue to work hard even when they face failure.

Be sure to –

- Clearly state your thesis
- Organize your writing
- Develop your writing in detail
- Choose your words carefully
- Use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure

Prompt for Expository Writing

READ the information in the box below.

"The Dallas Zoo's ape house was briefly evacuated this morning after a chimpanzee escaped its enclosure, police said."

- From article in The Dallas Morning News, Oct. 25, 2011

THINK about animals in the world today.

WRITE an essay explaining whether or not zoos are cruel to animals.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your central idea
- organize your writing
- develop your writing in detail
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

Prompt for Expository Writing

Read the quotation in the box below.

“The man that does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them.”

Mark Twain

Twain believes that those who choose not to read might as well be illiterate.

Write an essay explaining whether a person who reads a great deal has an advantage over a person who reads very little.

Be sure to –

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

English I Writing Expository Prompt

Read the information in the box below.

The digital audio player, also known as the MP3 player, first became available to the general public in 1996. Unlike the compact disc player, this technology did not require that music be stored on separate discs. MP3 players have now become the dominant medium for listening to music.

Think about the new technologies that people use in everyday life.

Write an essay explaining the effect of one new technology on people's lives.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Read the information in the box below.

In 1955 medical researcher Jonas Salk introduced an effective polio vaccine. At the time polio was considered the biggest threat to public health, yet Salk refused to profit by patenting the vaccine because he was more concerned with preventing disease than with personal gain.

Although many people work to benefit themselves, some people choose to put others first. Think carefully about this statement.

Write an essay explaining whether people should be more concerned about others than about themselves.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Read the following quotation.

The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity.

—*Dorothy Parker*

Discovering what you don't know can make life more interesting. Think carefully about this idea.

Write an essay explaining how curiosity can be beneficial.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Read the information in the box below.

An author recently wrote, "It is ultimately wrongness, not rightness, that can teach us who we are."

The most valuable lessons are often a result of making a mistake. Think carefully about this statement.

Write an essay explaining how people can learn from their mistakes.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Prompt for Expository Writing

READ the information in the box below.

We all have different strengths. Some of these strengths can be helpful to your family, your school, or to yourself.

THINK about some of the things you do well.

WRITE about one thing that has made you successful. Explain how you became successful.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your central idea
- organize your writing
- develop your writing in detail
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

Name _____ Date _____

Read the quotation in the box below.

"Be careful the environment you choose for it will shape you; be careful the friends you choose for you will become like them."

W. Clement Stone

In this quote, W. Clement Stone says that a person's friends and environment can greatly influence their decisions. Think carefully about this statement.

Write an essay explaining whether an individual's behavior is influenced primarily by their peers or their parents.

Be sure to—

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Expository Composition

Read the information in the box below.

Many people have succeeded in life or gained wisdom from someone who mentored them. Helen Keller, a blind and deaf woman, greatly benefited from the instruction of Annie Sullivan. Through Ms. Sullivan's teaching, Helen learned how to communicate using sign language and went on to achieve in school and in life.

Many people have mentored and guided others who became influential figures.

Write an essay explaining what qualities are needed to be a mentor to someone.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Read the information in the box below.

Jane Austen (1775–1817) and Franz Kafka (1883–1924) are considered great writers. Their books continue to sell, and they are widely read and studied in schools everywhere. Neither of them, however, received much recognition while they were alive.

Should people do things only to be recognized? Think carefully about this question.

Write an essay explaining whether a person must always be acknowledged in order to have accomplished something.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Read the information in the box below.

“This generation takes for granted a world of smartphones, tablets and high-speed wireless Internet—24/7 digital connections,” says Ann Mack, director of Trendspotting at JWT. “They’re also wired to socialize digitally, which is reshaping how kids communicate and with whom.”

For Gen Z, digital connections trump money, music, movies and more: Digital connection is essential. As many as 90% of young American and British respondents would be reluctant to give up their Internet connection (vs. 78% who said the same for their mobile phone, and 76% for texting friends). Overall, Internet connections, mobile phones and the ability to text friends are valued more highly than allowance money and various material goods, and significantly more highly than real-world activities like going to the movies or eating out...

Think carefully about this statement: “ We are drowning in information and starving for knowledge.” –Rutherford D. Rogers

Write an essay explaining the ways technology can be used in high school.

Read the information in the box below.

According to a June 2012 USA Today article, the average cost of a college education increased 15 % between 2008 and 2010. The College Board reports that for the 2011-2012 academic year college costs roughly \$21,400.

Think carefully about this statement. "A human being is not attaining his full heights until he is educated." –Horace Mann

Write an essay stating your position on states requiring state-funded universities to provide a free college education for every student.

Be sure to-

- State your position clearly
- Use appropriate organization
- Provide specific support for your argument
- Choose your words carefully
- Edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Read the information in the box below.

After being presented with information about the benefits of including music in learning environments, Flower Mound High School has decided to play music during passing periods. After a brief and informal survey of the students, two choices were tied as the student body favorite genre of music. The students polled were split 50/50 between dubstep and classic rock. Mr. Brackett will have the final decision on which genre will be played.

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.” – Plato. Think carefully about this statement.

Write an essay explaining whether or not music should be played in schools.

Be sure to-

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling



WRITTEN COMPOSITION #2: Expository

Read the following quotation.

Take risks. Ask big questions. Don't be afraid to make mistakes; if you don't make mistakes, you're not reaching far enough.

*—David Packard,
co-founder of Hewlett-Packard*

Taking a risk means acting without knowing whether the outcome will be good. Think carefully about this statement.

Write an essay explaining why it is sometimes necessary to take a chance.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Read the information in the box below.

Some people say that the best solution to the problem of bullying is to let matters sort themselves out; after all, generations have gone through bullying without much permanent damage. Others say that bullying should be stopped as soon as it begins to occur, because the results can be tragic.

Think about this question. Do you believe bullying is harmful or harmless?

Write an essay stating your position on whether you believe that bullying has no damaging long-term effects or whether it can cause harm over time.

Be sure to –

- State your position clearly
- Use appropriate organization
- Provide specific support for your argument
- Choose your words carefully
- Edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling.

Prompt for Expository Writing

Read the information in the box below.

In Homer's *Odyssey*, Odysseus tirelessly works through many trials to return home to his wife and son. He battles strange creatures, endures dangerous storms, and perseveres after experiencing the deaths of many close friends. In spite of several temptations, he never gives up, always keeping his family first in his heart.

It took Odysseus ten years to get home. Think about short- and long-term goals.

Write an essay explaining what it takes to achieve a long-term goal.

Be sure to –

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet

Act II Expository Response

READ the information in the box below.

Romeo.	For stony limits cannot hold love out, And what love can do, that dares love attempt. Therefore my kinsmen are no longer let to me.
Juliet.	If they do see thee, they will murder thee.
Romeo.	Alack, there lies more peril in thine eye Than twenty of their swords! Look thou but sweet, And I am proof against their enmity.
Juliet.	I would not for the world they saw thee here.
Romeo.	I have night's cloak to hide me from their sight; And but thou love me, let them find me here. My life were better ended by their hate Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.

Think carefully about this excerpt from the play *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare.

Some people say that love conquers all and others believe that it is just a cliché.

Write an essay explaining whether the power of love can conquer all.

Be sure to –

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet

Act III Expository Response

Read the information in the box below.

In Act III, scene iv, Romeo tries to stab himself in grief and despair over his banishment. The nurse snatches the dagger away from Romeo and the Friar addresses him...

Friar. Art thou a man? Thy form cries out thou art.
Thy tears are womanish, thy wild acts denote
The unreasonable fury of a beast.
Unseemly woman in a seeming man,
And ill-beseeming beast in seeming both!
Thou hast amazed me. By my holy order,
I thought thy disposition better tempered.
Hast thou slain Tybalt? Wilt thou slay thyself?
And slay thy lady that in thy life lives,
By doing damned hate upon thyself?
Why raillest thou on thy birth, the heaven and the earth,
Since birth and heaven and earthy, all three do meet
In thee at once, which thou at once wouldst lose.
Fie, fie, thou shamest thy shape, thy love, thy wit,
Which, like a usurer, abound'st in all,
And usest none in that true use indeed
Which should bedeck thy shape, thy love, thy wit.

Think carefully about this excerpt from the play, *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare.

In times of crises, people react differently, relying on either logic or emotion to get them through.

Write an essay explaining whether logic or emotion is more effective in critical times.

Be sure to –

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

Name _____

STAAR Expository Prompt Practice

The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark.

-Michelangelo

Many people today say that failure is not an option while others say that the only failure is not to try. Is failure an important step in learning? Think carefully.

Write an essay explaining what someone learns from the process of trying and failing at something.

Your thesis sentence is: _____

Life is too short to miss out on the beautiful things like a double cheeseburger.

-Channing Tatum

Eating things that are not good for you can, in the long term, cause many health problems. After all, you are what you eat. On the other hand, some things are too good to pass up.

Think: Is it important sometimes to do things just because they make you happy?

Write an essay explaining on what is gained by doing things just for pure enjoyment.

Your thesis sentence is: _____

John Adams was instrumental in the writing of the Declaration of Independence and was the 2nd president of the United States. Yet, even in his lifetime, he expressed the sentiment that he would not be remembered or admired as much as some of the other founding fathers of our country.

Why are some people famous and admired while others who have the same or even better qualities and achievements receive little or no recognition? Think carefully about this question.

Write an essay explaining whether a person must achieve fame in order to have accomplished something.

Brainstorm here:

Your thesis sentence is _____

