

WRITING BOOT CAMP EXERCISES

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will learn the steps to writing a five-paragraph essay –brainstorming, outlining, creating a rough draft, and revising – in order to write a well-structured argumentative essay.

STANDARDS ADDRESSED

ELA.9-10.W.1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

- a. Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- b. Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supplying evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level and concerns.
- c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
- d. Establish and maintain an appropriate style and objective tone.
- e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

ELA.9-10.W.5: Engage in a writing process that includes brainstorming, drafting and then writing a final draft based on multiple revisions and peer/self-editing

INSTRUCTIONS

Follow along with the exercises presented in the **Writing Boot Camp PowerPoint** and write your answers in the spaces below.

EXERCISE 1: WARM UP

1. What about [this essay](#) makes it easy to read?
2. What elements of your writing skills do you feel you need to work on after going over this example?
- 3.

EXERCISE 2: BRAINSTORMING MAP

Take a quick look at this sample essay prompt:

Captain America is a man out of time who is doing his best to fit in modern society. Does his displacement in history affect his ability to lead the Avengers? Develop a well-reasoned argument supporting your claim.

Now let's see how we would answer this prompt starting with this brainstorming map:

<i>Claim: Captain America's displacement in time does not affect his ability to lead the Avengers.</i>		
<i>Point 1: combat experience is timeless</i>	<i>Point 2: he sets a good example</i>	<i>Point 3: everyone respects him</i>

So, my claim answered the prompt, and then I came up with three points to support my claim. Notice how the boxes are completed with reasonable points that support your claim. Now it's your turn...

1. See me for your essay prompt.
2. **Step One:** Read over your essay prompt. Then, complete the brainstorming map below.

Claim:		
Point:	Point:	Point:

EXERCISE 3: FIVE PARAGRAPH GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Now let's continue our essay by completing the five-paragraph graphic organizer. Again, check out my example from the Captain America essay prompt.

Introduction		
Hook: In Captain America's world, age is irrelevant.	Thesis: Captain America's displacement in time does not affect his ability to lead the Avengers. His combat experience is timeless, he sets a good example, and everyone respects him.	
Body Paragraphs		
<p>1. His combat experience is timeless.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battle is an experience that affects a person's psychology • He can remain calm under pressure. • He has skills that make him a good fighter. 	<p>2. He sets a good example.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is a man of honor. • He always takes care of fellow Avengers. 	<p>3. Everyone respects him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has saved members of the Avengers numerous times. • He is merciful to his enemies. • He never lets his team down.
Conclusion		
<p>Acknowledge: Even though he is a man out of time he can handle leading the Avengers.</p>	<p>Respond: Time after time, Captain America has proven that he is the best man to lead the Avengers. He has proven that he can lead the Avengers with his battle experience, strong morals, and the way he inspires his teammates. Although, Captain America is 95 years old, his super soldier serum and relevant experience make him not only a hero that everyone looks up to, but a competent leader as well.</p>	

Red: paragraph 1

Blue: body paragraphs (2,3,4)

Purple: paragraph 5

Now it's your turn, complete your own five- paragraph graphic organizer using the brainstorming map you completed above.

Introduction		
Hook:	Thesis:	
Body Paragraphs		
1.	2.	3.
Conclusion		
Acknowledge:	Respond:	

Red: paragraph 1

Blue: body paragraphs (2,3,4)

Purple: paragraph 5

EXERCISE 4: ROUGH DRAFT

Now it's time to start your rough draft. Check out my example here, pieced together from my five-paragraph graphic organizer on the Captain America Prompt.

In Captain America's world age is irrelevant. Captain America's displacement in time does not impact his ability to lead the Avengers – his combat experience is timeless, he sets a good example and everyone respects him.

Captain America's combat experience is timeless. Battle is an experience that affects a person's psychology. Being a veteran of many battles, Captain America has learned to remain calm under pressure, a skill essential to leadership. His combat experience has also made him a good fighter, and how can you be expected to lead people into battle if you cannot fight yourself? Captain America is the hero many of the Avengers aspire to be, and the skills listed above are only two out of many that make him an effective leader.

An effective leader always sets a good example for his troops, and Captain America is just that type of leader. He is a man of honor; he is always true to his word; and he protects the innocent. His integrity inspires others. He only kills when necessary and always takes care of the Avengers – rare traits that many respect. An effective leader inspires others by setting the example, only then can he have the respect of his troops.

Finally, everyone respects Captain America, even his enemies. He has saved all of his teammates numerous times and has shown mercy towards even the staunchest of enemies. These behaviors ensure that he earns the respect of both fellow Avengers and his enemies.

Time after time, Captain America has proven that he is the best man to lead the Avengers. He has proven that he can lead the Avengers with his battle experience, strong morals, and the way he inspires his teammates. Although, Captain America is 95-years old, his super soldier serum and relevant experience make him not only a hero that everyone looks up to, but a competent leader as well.

Now that you have carefully gone over my example, return to the PowerPoint and double check the steps to turn your five-paragraph graphic organizer into a rough draft. Once you have reviewed the PowerPoint, write your rough draft in the attached box.

Rough Draft:

EXERCISE 5: REVISIONS & FINAL DRAFT

In Captain America's world age is irrelevant. *(I need another sentence here to make the introduction more complete)* Captain America's displacement in time does not impact his ability to lead the Avengers – his combat experience is timeless, he sets a good example and everyone respects him.

Captain America's combat experience is timeless. Battle is an experience that affects a person's psychology. Being a veteran of many battles, Captain America has learned to remain calm under pressure, a skill essential to leadership. His combat experience has also made him a good fighter, and how can you be expected to lead people into battle if you cannot fight yourself? Captain America is the hero many of the Avengers aspire to be, and the skills listed above are only two out of many that make him an effective leader.

An effective leader always sets a good example for his troops, and Captain America is just that type of leader. He is a man of honor; he is always true to his word; and he protects the innocent. His integrity inspires others. He only kills when necessary and always takes care of the Avengers – rare traits that many respect. **An effective leader inspires others by setting the example, only then can he have the respect of his troops.** *This concluding sentence is pretty weak. I need to use the list of transition words and phrases (link the PowerPoint) to improve this sentence.*

Finally, everyone respects Captain America, even his enemies. He has saved all of his teammates numerous times and has shown mercy towards even the staunchest of enemies. These behaviors ensure that he earns the respect of both fellow Avengers and his enemies. *This entire paragraph sounds a little too much like the last one. What can I do to make it a little more different?*

Time after time, Captain America has proven that he is the best man to lead the Avengers. He has proven that he can lead the Avengers with his battle experience, strong morals, and the way he inspires his teammates. Although, Captain America is 95-years old, his super soldier serum and relevant experience make him not only a hero that everyone looks up to, but a competent leader as well.

Now cut and paste your rough draft in the box below. Look at my example, and see the different types of mistakes I highlighted. I mostly had problems with clarity and transitions, which means I better make some changes. What changes do you have to make? Make notes as you go along if you need to or just make the changes below.

Rough Draft:

This step is the last one! First, have someone else read your paper. Make all of your corrections based on your edits and their feedback, and paste your final draft in the box below. Once I have signed off on your essay, you may begin the unit.

RUBRIC

5	4	3	2	1
<p>The student thoroughly completed all steps of the writing process, including the brainstorming map, graphic organizer, rough draft, revision process, and final draft. The final draft of the essay contains five extremely well-written paragraphs, a strong thesis statement, and well-reasoned, strongly-supported points. The points directly support the thesis.</p>	<p>The student completed all or most (at least 4) steps of the writing process, including the brainstorming map, graphic organizer, rough draft, revision process, and final draft. The final draft of the essay contains five well-written paragraphs, a strong thesis statement, and well-reasoned, strongly-supported points. The points support the thesis.</p>	<p>The student completed most (at least 3) steps of the writing process, including the brainstorming map, graphic organizer, rough draft, revision process, and final draft. The final draft of the essay contains five mostly well-written paragraphs, a thesis statement, and points that are somewhat supported. The points somewhat support the thesis.</p>	<p>The student completed 2 or fewer steps of the writing process, including the brainstorming map, graphic organizer, rough draft, revision process, and final draft. The final draft of the essay contains less than five paragraphs or five poorly written paragraphs. There is not a strong thesis statement, and the points are not well-supported or aligned with the thesis.</p>	<p>The student completed 1 or fewer steps of the writing process, including the brainstorming map, graphic organizer, rough draft, revision process, and final draft. The final draft of the essay is disorganized and has no clear paragraph structure. The essay includes a weak thesis that is not well supported.</p>
90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	59 or less