

Top 10 Tips for 7th Grade Writing Success



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Tip #10

Conventions – A Potential
“Deal Breaker”

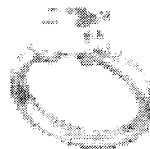


errors should not Distract from
meaning? (Painful, Huh?)

- Conventions and Mechanics include:
 - Punctuation
 - Spelling
 - Usage
 - Grammar
 - Sentence structure
 - Capitalization
 - Indentation

Tip # 9

Big is Better . . . NOT!!!



It all depends!

Word Choice

- Use simple language well
- There are many 3's that do not have one, single “Million Dollar” Word
- But, many of the 4's show well-developed vocabularies, and the words are used *correctly*.

Tip # 8

Slash Superficial



Superficial

- The hallmark of the “2” is *superficiality*.
- Superficial synonyms:
 - Fake
 - Inauthentic
 - Show for the sake of show (“Let me show you how clever/cute I am.”)
 - Surface level

Tip # 7

Paragraphing ≠ Organization

Paragraphing Etiquette

- Developmental appropriateness
 - For elementary school – teach it, preach it, but don’t necessarily expect it
 - For middle school – teach it, preach it, and pray for the best
 - For high school – teach it, preach it, and demand it

Tip # 6

BARK
BARK
BARK



Beware of Repetition
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(Please Don't) Play it Again, Sam

- Repetition of ideas **stalls progression**.
- This is an editing issue.
- Repetition contributes to weak development.
- It's better to be short than to repeat (quality over quantity)

Tip # 5

BARK
BARK
BARK



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Tip # 4

Any Approach Will Do

. . . Except Poetry

There are Many Successful Approaches to TAKS Writing

- ALL FORMS OF NARRATIVE
- Journal entries
- Different points of view
- Fantasies
- Philosophical and reflective
- Informational commentaries
- Editorials
- Letters

Tip # 3

Present a Unified Front



Nothing Random

- Show sentence to sentence and paragraph to paragraph progression
- An imaginary thread of connectedness
- Make sure ideas connect
- The scorer should never feel lost in the paper (a.k.a. "Where did that come from?")

Tip # 2

"You got some spla-nin' to do!"



If You Lay It Out There, Be Ready to Explain

- A lack of developed ideas makes the piece superficial.
- Any presented idea must be developed
- Depth of thought (not just "tell me more")
- What you say should show depth and insight

Tip # 1

Compositional Risk . . .
It's a Good Thing!



What This Means:

- ✓ *Unusual perspective*
- ✓ *Use own unique experiences or view of the world as basis for writing*
- ✓ *Make interesting connections between ideas*

Willingness to take compositional risks enhances the quality of the content

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