

COMPOSITION WRITING TIPS

1. My Cat

A. Introduction (where I got it)

- a. black cat
- b. given to me
- c. it was still small
- d. it is now about four years old

B. Body (Paragraph II) its food

- a. fed twice a day
- b. mornings, meat or milk
- c. at night meat or special cat food
- d. very fond of milk
- e. laps it up

Paragraph III

- a. her claws
- b. her pads
- c. hunting during daytime and at night
- d. thick fur and wonderful eyes
- e. always finds her way home

Paragraph IV (her ways)

- a. beautiful, gentle, clean
- b. washes herself after eating
- c. like a fire in winter
- d. shows pleasure by purring

C. Conclusion

- a. I love my cat
- b. I look after her.

Vocabulary that may used

- fluffy
- fond of
- laps it up
- beast of prey
- long, curved and sharp
- soft pads
- nocturnal
- beautiful, gentle and clean
- licking
- strokes
- pleasure
- purring
- stray from home

Similes

- as black as coal, as white as snow
- as gentle as a lamb
- as wise as an owl
- as sharp as a needle (claws)

2. A Football Match I Attended

A. Introduction (where and weather)

I have attended so many football matches at/in Mkwesine Stadium. The one I attended/witnessed on 15 June 2016 was a memorable/an unforgettable one. Our school was playing against its main/chief rival, Chipiwa. The weather was conducive for the big game/encounter/derby.

B. Body: Paragraph II

- Number of people
- behaviour of spectators
- cheering at their favourite teams
- noisy supporters
- danced with joy, ululated
- screamed with joy

Paragraph III

- good passes
- passes were accurate
- dribbled past defenders
- scored a header
- make a great save
- played an entertaining game

Paragraph IV

- scored a brilliant goal
- scored a specular goal
- scored the winning goal
- who was the best player/enterprising
- the dribbling wizard

C. Conclusion

- Which team won, by how many goals
- Prizes
- Player of the tournament/man of the match/most enterprising player/top goal scorer walked away with....

Vocabulary

- most talented player
- awarded a penalty
- passes were accurate and fast
- knitted good passes
- scored a brilliant goal
- scored a hatrick
- scored a brace
- the ball was cleared from the line
- scored a scissors kick
- the ball hit the crossbar
- he was fouled in the penalty box and a penalty was awarded
- one goal to nil
- cleared the ball

- scored a gem of a goal

3. **An Accident I Witnessed**

A. Introduction: Paragraph I

- shiny and hot day, dates if necessary, sun shining brilliantly
- the sun was like a ball of fire
- the scene of the accident

B. Body Paragraph II

- lorry wanted to overtake at a sharp curve
- the lorry crashed into the bus
- people who died on the spot
- number of people injured fatally/seriously

- total chaos/disorder
- some people were screaming and groaning in fear and pain

Paragraph III

- passing vehicles stopped to avoid hitting the injured
- Moments later, Shortly after that, Within a short space of time police arrived at the scene and asked some questions.
- Put a cordon to keep the public at a distance
- Many people stopped to see if they could assist

Paragraph IV

- Ambulance came and carried the injured to the hospital
- Some survivors suffered scratches
- Lorry driver died after being admitted into the hospital/hospitalized.

C. Conclusion

- After a fortnight, people were treated and discharged
- The lorry driver, the bus driver caused the accident was drunk; did not obey traffic rules.

Vocabulary

- people were bleeding profusely
- some people were injured slightly, fatally
- some onlookers wept bitterly, touchingly
- some people fell heavily on the tarred road/on the gravel road

4. My School

A. Introduction

- name of school
- where you find it, nearest town, rivers, roads and dams, district

- year it was established

Paragraph II

- talk about the lowveld sugar estates
- talk about distances in kilometers; use words (i) approximately (ii) around (iii) about, (iv) almost
- is it near a secondary school, name it, use the above words to give distance to the nearest secondary school
- how far is it from the nearest township, town.

Paragraph III

- it is a big school/small, urban, farm or rural school.
- number of teachers – name just a few, headmistress/headmaster, the deputy head, your class teacher
- number of pupils - uniform worn by girls/boys

Paragraph IV

- subjects taught, your favourite subjects
- your sporting activities at the school
- does your school excel in any sport

Paragraph V

- why do you like your school?

Vocabulary

situated, located

- beautiful and magnified
- green flowers
- charts are educative, attractive and mouth watering
- classrooms are well furnished
- teachers are friendly, kind, sociable, merciful, smart and helpful
- pupils are generous, faithful, smart and cheerful

- school has indigenous and exotic trees (name a few)
- the garden is productive – variety of vegetables grown in the garden
- approximately, around, about, almost

Similes

- as green as grass – flowers
- as smart as kings (teachers)
- as busy as pupils (teachers)

5. DESCRIPTIVE COMPOSITION

Describing Any Person

Face and head: round, oval, long, small, square-jawed, thin, bullet, wrinkled, friendly, freckled, bald-headed, dark in complexion, light in complexion, white in complexion.

Forehead: narrow, flat, bulging, straight, broad, enormous

Nose: long, flat, straight, broad. Enormous, bulbous, aquiline (eagle-like)

Hair: straight, wavy, curly, matted, unkempt, fine, tangled, brown, grey-haired, long, silky, bobbed, plaited

Eyes: clear, bright, large, small, brown, blue, sly, merry, beady, twinkling, sparkling, round, almond-shaped

Mouth, lips and teeth: wide, thin, straight, stained, bad, decayed, gleaming, irregular, projecting, prominent, uneven, well-brushed, thick

Skin: pale, tanned, dusky, fair, sunburnt, rough, smooth, freckled, pimply, blotchy.

Figures: tall, short, lanky, stout, thin, frail, athletic, bent, sturdy, stalwart, manly, powerful, gigantic, deformed, robust, broad chest, upright, bow-legged, big-chested.

Character: humble, kind hearted, proud, naught, greedy, selfish, cheerful, miserable, honest, charming, mean, loyal, generous, lovable, bold, stubborn, short-tempered, forgiving, unforgiving, merciless, brave, hardworking,, good tempered, coward, jovial, headstrong, shy, unforgiving

Voice: low, high-pitched, squeaky, sweet, shrill, hoarse, deep, harsh, bass, nasal, guttural, raucous

6. NARRATIVE

CAUGHT IN A THUNDERSTORM

Paragraph I

- Last Friday/Saturday afternoon mother sent me to buy some groceries
- went to visit a friend on another farm
- no cloud in the sky
- was a hot-smelted day
- sun was like a ball of fire

Paragraph II

- Towards one, two, three o'clock the wind sprang up.
- could see the wind at the swaying branches of trees
- driven by the wind, thunder clouds began to gather in
- the storm was brewing

Paragraph III

- Soon afterwards, I heard the rumbling of thunder.
- By this time the sky completely overcast
- Suddenly, there was a loud thunderclap that left me almost deaf, followed by a flash of lightning

Paragraph IV

- A few raindrops spattered in the dust
- Almost immediately afterwards, it poured with rain
- I had to scurry for shelter
- I was drenched (wet to the skin)
- Water was everywhere
- I took shelter in a cave/shed.
- I shivered with cold
- Within half an hour, the storm had passed

Paragraph V Conclusion

- I could see a rainbow in the sky
- Birds began to sing again
- We/I hurried home
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7. BUSINESS LETTER

Write a letter to your teacher advising him that you will not be able to attend school on a said date and day. The reasons should include the following.

Your mother has fallen ill and is bed-ridden with an outbreak of cholera that has recently hit your village/area.

- father has taken her to hospital
- has since been admitted at Chiredzi/Mashoko/Mkwesine hospital/clinic
- father has written a note telling us that her condition is improving
- since you are the eldest son/daughter you have to take care of beasts, other younger children (the family) and all farming activities.
- you can add some more details
- tell him/her when you hope to be back to school

Vocabulary

- admitted
- recovering/feeling better
- looking after/taking care
- treated and discharged

8. NARRATIVE

The Day My Uncle's House Burnt Down

A. Introduction

- last week, year, a fortnight ago visited my cousin in Harare
- that evening went to the church- returned
- saw the house on fire

B. Paragraph II

- how we tried to save what we could
- uncle took hosepipe in the garden
- fire kept spreading
- helped my uncle, carried out clothes and furniture
- later, too dangerous, crowd/onlookers rushed – what they did.

Paragraph III

- how the fire was put out
- part of the roof fell in, smoke and flames
- fire engine arrived- firemen sprayed water on the house
- flames died down – fire put out
- only bare walls left

Paragraph IV – Conclusion

- stayed at a neighbour's house
- uncle looked for a house to rent
- cause of the fire never found out.

9. A CEREMONY

Time : Sunrise, midday, sunset, early morning, late, the sun was behind the mountains

Clothes: well dressed, wedding gown, nice suit, glossy shoes, leather shoes, wedding ring, (golden, shiny); veil covering a beautiful face, high-heeled shoes, venue well decorated, aisle

Food: delicious food, spicy, sour, sweet, smelly, savory, with good flavor, plenty of food, tasty, tasteless, a big meal, a large meal, a delicious cake, a great deal of

Entertainment: dancing to music, a piece of music, songs, bride maids dancing to music

Gifts: a lot of presents, a variety of presents, many, in form of cash, furniture, kitchen utensils

People: a big crowd, in numbers, many people, bride, bridegroom, new husband, pastor, cheerful, master of ceremony.

Conclusion: overjoyed, extremely, happy, will never forget this day

Some important Points

- women were ululating as the couple walked down the aisle
- many people were cheering at the new couple
- everybody screamed with joy
- the mc's voice echoed into my ears
- little waited impatiently for food with greedy eyes
- mouth watering food, appetising food