



WASL Writing Tips

- Don't panic when you read the prompt. It's a natural reaction to think, "I don't know anything about this. . ." Relax, close your eyes and think about what you know and have experienced that has anything to do with the topic. You have to rely on personal knowledge and experiences so find the angle you can address. Personalize the prompt.
- Spend plenty of time on your prewrite. Jot down those key words and phrases and images to include. Then elaborate: show rather than tell; provide specific details (remember all five senses); if you give a reason, add specific examples; add a personal anecdote if you can.
- Organize your prewrite. Plan your introduction. Then sequence and number your examples or reasons. Make sure you have ample, relevant support for each. If you think statistics/numbers/percentages/quotes would help your case, make up reasonable ones to add.
- Remember your audiences. Choose words that respectfully, but effectively, deliver your message.
- Write a strong conclusion.
- Make sure your handwriting is legible. Use a dictionary to check spelling.
- Read carefully for:
 - Correct homonyms/homophones (*your, you're; it's its; there, their, they're. . .*)
 - Subject/verb agreement (*There is . . .; There are. . .*)
 - Skipped words
 - Missing punctuation
 - Remember: you can insert with a ^.

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