

STEPS FOR WRITING A LONG COMPOSITION:

1. Read the prompt and break it down:

- **The first sentence is a statement and if you re-word it can be used as the first sentence (hook) of your essay.**
- **The question should be broken down in to THREE separate parts**

2. Read the second sentence and answer it in your head:

- **From a work of literature: choose your book...don't forget the author!**
- **Select: this part asks you to select a character or a friendship or something that you are going to be writing about.**

3. Form your thesis based on the parts from the second sentence:

- **In the short story "The Sound of Thunder" by Ray Bradbury, Eckles is a character that makes a decision.**
- **Add the second part of your thesis by briefly answering the question and saying what you will be writing about. Example: The decision that Eckles makes is to travel back in time to go on a Safari. This decision has many consequences for him and for others.**
- **Do not forget to use the words from the prompt to guide you.**

4. Read the third sentence to find out what you need to answer in the body of your essay:

- **Identify, usually this part asks you to identify something and your first body paragraph should do that.**
- **Explain, usually this part will also ask you to explain something, the importance, significance, effects...this is the second and possibly third body paragraph of your essay.**

5. Create a graphic organizer:

- **This will be helpful for you to sort through all the information and structure your essay before you begin to write**

6. Write your introduction:

- **The thesis**
- **Background/summary of the story**

7. Write your body paragraphs:

- **You need topic sentences**
- **You need details**

8. Write the conclusion:

- **Answer the so what, why should the reader care questions**
- **Re-state your thesis**

9. Proofread and edit your draft

- **Check for spelling and grammar mistakes**

10. Write the final draft in your answer booklet