

Composing on Your Own (p.120)

Respond to Schlosser's ideas by writing your own thoughts on fast food in American life, or choose a related topic of special interest to you. Write freely, asking yourself questions to generate ideas and thoughts. You will develop these initial ideas throughout this unit, so save your work.

Composing on Your Own (p.128)

The anchor text focuses on just one issue in the broader conversation of ethical eating practices. In addition to Schlosser's concern over how fast food has changed society, other concerns relating to food ethics include environmental impact, exploitive labor practices, inhumane treatment of food animals, government subsidies and food policy, food deserts, fair trade, and many more. Choose one of these topics or another that interests you and begin to research it. Keep notes about where you find your information—the titles of books or articles, websites, or other sources—as well as the authors and their credentials. Develop and explain an arguable position or claim about the subject you choose.

As you have read, the elements of the rhetorical situation greatly influence the choices a writer makes. Take time now to choose or create a rhetorical situation. Choose or adapt any of the following contexts, audiences, and purposes or create your own. Write down the choices you make and save your work for future use.

Composing on Your Own (p.133)

Return to the research and writing you did on food ethics or another topic of your choice. Write a paragraph on your topic that includes an arguable claim and provide evidence to support the claim. As you integrate the information from your research, be sure to introduce the information from your sources with commentary that makes clear how it fits into your line of reasoning. Also review the choices you made about your rhetorical situation and keep them in mind as you complete this activity.

Composing on Your Own (p.146)

Return to the paragraph you wrote about food ethics or another topic of interest to you. Examine your line of reasoning. Create a two-column chart like the one on page 142 with your text in the first column and your train of thought in the second. Evaluate your line of reasoning and ask if it keeps

the elements of your rhetorical situation in mind. Is it logical, complete, sequential, and clear? If you notice any gaps, introduce commentary to fill them in. When you are satisfied that the essential elements are in place, add more commentary to explain the significance and relevance of your evidence. Also consider how to best position your claim. Will you begin your paragraph with the claim and use a line of reasoning to justify it? Or will you present a line of reasoning that will lead to a thesis? Experiment with each type of structure as you write your paragraph. Save your work for later use.

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Composing on Your Own (p. 153)

Return to the paragraph you are developing on food ethics or another topic. Analyze your paragraph to be sure it is appropriate for your rhetorical situation and note any flaws in your line of reasoning. Check your writing carefully to be sure you have not used absolute language and have not used limited evidence to jump to unsubstantiated conclusions. Save your work for later use.

Composing on Your Own (p. 158)

Review your draft on food ethics or another topic. Analyze your writing to determine what method(s) of development you recognize in your draft. Always keep your rhetorical situation in mind—are your choices appropriate for your audience and purpose? Save your analysis and draft for later use.

Composing on Your Own (p. 162)

Review the draft you have been working on. If you haven't used narration, introduce it as a method of developing your argument. For example, try beginning your paragraph with an anecdote or personal experience, or offer an insight or reflection that advances your position. As you experiment with these techniques, keep your rhetorical situation in mind—are they effective for your audience, purpose, and message? Save your work for later use.

Composing on Your Own (p. 167)

Return to your draft in progress on food ethics or another topic. Keeping your rhetorical situation in mind, consider how the cause-effect method of development could advance your argument. Draw on and experiment with the different cause-effect models presented on the previous pages, using specific details to fill in the “cause” and “effect” boxes based on your topic. Observe how the changes in structure affect your argument. Then make a final draft of your paragraph using the following checklist as a guide.

Checklist for Composing
✓ Did you develop an arguable position and do research to support it, noting your sources' credentials? (1.1)
✓ As you drafted your paragraph, did you use your sources to support your line of reasoning and credit them appropriately? (1.2)
✓ Did you visualize your line of reasoning and experiment with different approaches to choose the best one? (2.1)
✓ Did you check your work for flaws in reasoning, especially using absolute terms and jumping to conclusions with insufficient evidence? (2.2)
✓ Did you analyze your draft to determine the method of development you used? (3.1)
✓ Did you introduce narration to enhance your argument? (3.2)
✓ Did you experiment with cause-effect arrangements to determine if they are appropriate for your paragraph? (3.3)
✓ Did you check your writing for mistakes in spelling and mechanics and make an effort to correct them?

Table 3-10