

UNIT 4

Composing on Your Own (p. 184)

After you read, respond to those ideas by writing your own thoughts on homelessness. What experiences have you had with people who are homeless or people who work to provide assistance to the homeless? Use freewriting and brainstorming to record your thoughts. You will be developing these ideas throughout the unit, so save your work for future use.

Composing on Your Own (p. 197)

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. (You can always choose the rhetorical situation you are actually in: context—class assignment; audience—teacher; purpose—to learn about and demonstrate your understanding of introductions.) Write down the choices you make. Then review the writing you did after you read the GAO report. Identify a main idea to develop and try out a few different ways you might introduce it. Choose three different introduction strategies from Table 4-2 on pages 194-195 and draft an introductory sentence or two for each one of those ways. Save your work for future use.

Contexts/Formats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Debate▪ Opinion piece on YouTube▪ Meeting of task force on community issues
Audiences
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Students and teachers▪ General public▪ People you disagree with
Purposes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Convince audience of your position on homelessness▪ Encourage people to become more active in responding to serious social issues▪ Propose solutions to problems facing homeless families

Composing on Your Own (p. 202)

Return to the writing you did on the subject of homelessness based on the GAO report. After reviewing the introductions you wrote, use three strategies from Table 4-3 on page 200 to draft three brief conclusions. In one of your conclusions, you may use a strategy that you devised on your own. When writing your conclusions, be sure to logically connect with your introduction and keep the rhetorical situation in mind, including your audience, context, and purpose. Save your work for later use.

Composing on Your Own (p. 212)

Review the writing you did on the subject of homelessness after reading the GAO report, including your sample introductions and conclusions. Then use free writing, brainstorming, or other techniques that work for you to explore your subject. Keep the elements of your rhetorical situation in mind during this process. Do research as necessary and fold what you learn from your research into your thinking and writing. Continue working until you can develop a thesis statement that 1) requires defense and 2) suggests a line of reasoning. Remember that a thesis may be a single statement and may be introduced as a line of reasoning that will be further developed in the article as a whole. Save your work for later use.

Composing on Your Own (p. 218)

Review all the writing you have done on the subject of homelessness and check to see if your thesis has a claim that reveals a line of reasoning. When you are satisfied with your thesis, brainstorm or free write about how you might use comparison-contrast to advance your argument and trace your line of reasoning. Look for areas in your essay where comparison-contrast may help clarify key ideas. As you refine your work, be sure to consider the rhetorical situation, including your audience, context, and purpose. Save your work for later use.

Composing on Your Own (p. 222)

Review all the writing you have done on the subject of homelessness. Evaluate all your ideas in the context of your rhetorical situation and begin to develop them into an essay. If needed, conduct online research or a library search to find evidence to support your claim. Use the checklist below as you are writing. Use it again when you are finished to evaluate your work. While your writing does not have to follow every point in the checklist, the list should help you review whether your ideas and arguments are thorough and well-reasoned.