

# 4 SQUARE WRITING

- 
- Based on the writing program of Judith and Evan Gould



# Forms of Composition



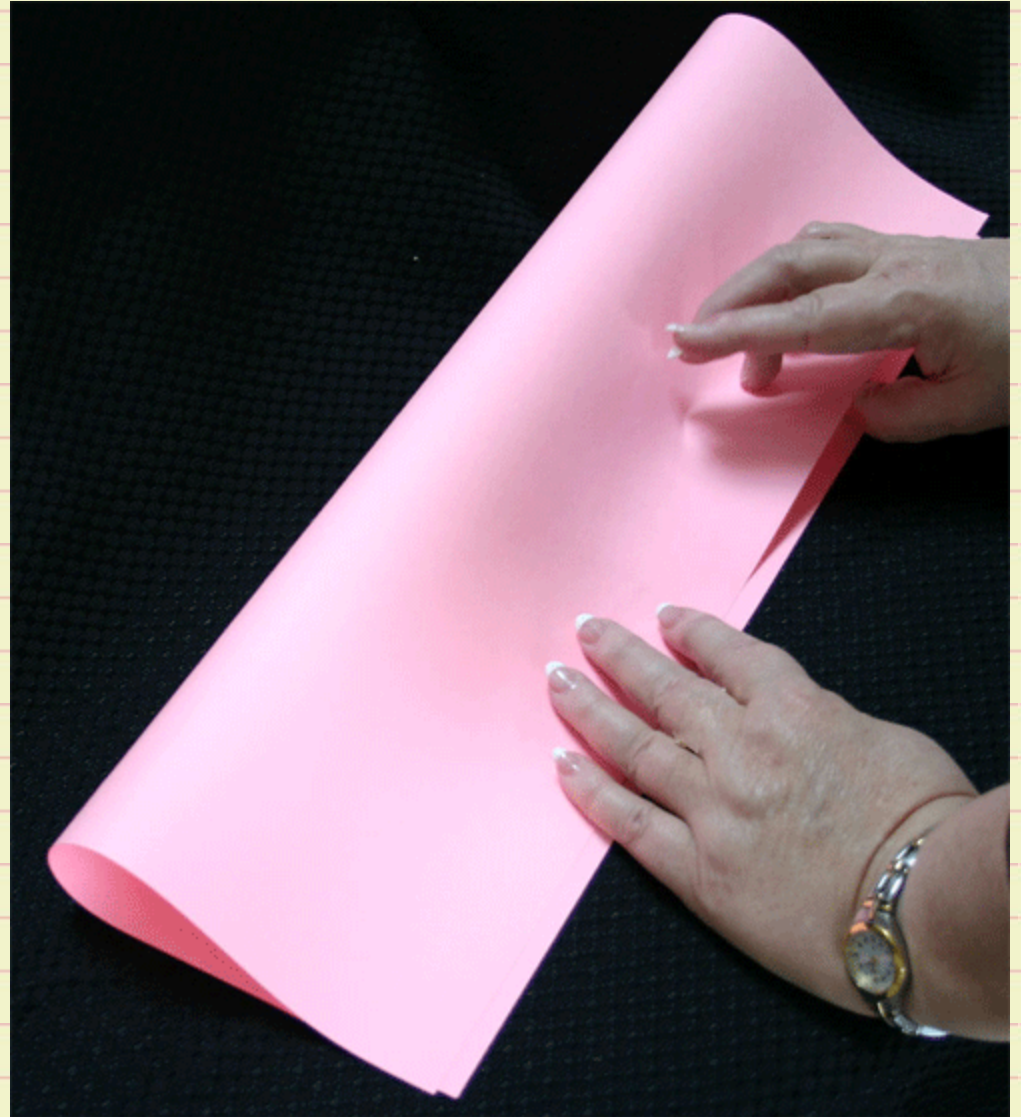
- Expository
  - Narrative
  - Descriptive
  - Persuasive
-

# Writing Prompts

- **Writing Situation:** Everyone has a fond memory of a special birthday.
  - Think about a birthday that stood out among all the others.
  - **Directions for Writing:** Write a paragraph/ essay telling about your favorite birthday.
-

# Prepare the graphic organizer.

***Now fold  
your paper  
into 4  
squares.***



I will never forget my sixth birthday.

 *Topic Sentence*

**Fold the paper into four squares. Begin with one well written topic sentence placed in a box in the center. This will become the topic sentence.**

My grandmother threw  
me a surprise party.

My parents gave me a  
wonderful gift.

I will never forget my sixth  
birthday.

My friends and I went  
to the zoo.

It was the best  
birthday ever.

**Add three supporting sentences (one in each  
box). The fourth box should be a feeling  
sentence that sums up the other three. All  
sentences should support the main topic in the  
center.**

***4 SQUARE + 1***

---

My grandmother threw me a surprise party.

- She baked my favorite chocolate fudge cake.

My parents gave me a wonderful gift.

- They surprised me with a golden retriever puppy.

I will never forget my sixth birthday.

My friends and I went to the zoo.

- We rode the elephants.

It was the best birthday ever.

**Add a detail in each box to tell more about the supporting sentence.**



From the graphic organizer to the  
lined paper.....

**I will never forget my sixth birthday.** My grandmother threw me a surprise party. She baked my favorite chocolate fudge cake. My parents gave me a wonderful gift. They surprised me with a golden retriever puppy. My friends and I went to the zoo. We rode the elephants. It was the best birthday ever.

***4 SQUARE + 3***

---

My grandmother threw me a surprise party.

- favorite cake
- tons of presents
- exciting games

My parents gave me a wonderful gift.

- golden retriever
- named Goldie
- best friend

I will never forget my sixth birthday.

My friends and I went to the zoo.

It was the best birthday ever.

- elephant ride
- walked for miles
- rode train

Now add **three** details in each box to tell more about the supporting sentence.

Again from the graphic organizer to the lined paper.....

**I will never forget my sixth birthday.** My grandmother threw me a surprise party. She baked my favorite chocolate fudge cake. I got tons of presents. We had such fun playing exciting games. My parents gave me a wonderful gift. They surprised me with a golden retriever puppy. I named her Goldie. She is my best friend today. My friends and I went to the zoo. We rode the elephants. The zoo was so large we walked for miles. Finally we gave up and rode the train. **It was the best birthday ever.**

***4 SQUARE + 3 + T***

**Early in the day,** My mother threw  
a surprise party.

- favorite cake
- tons of presents
- exciting games

My parents gave me  
wonderful gifts. **After lunch,**

- golden retriever
- named Goldie
- best friend

**Later,** My friends and I went  
to the zoo.

- elephant ride
- walked for miles
- rode train

I will never forget my sixth  
birthday.

**Indeed,** It was the best  
birthday ever.

**Adding a transition word to each  
box will help the text to flow.**

**I will never forget my sixth birthday.**

4 Square + 3 + T = 5 Paragraphs

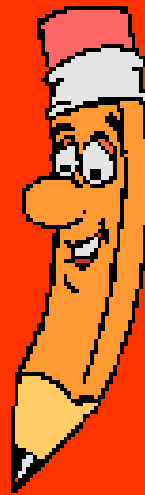
Early in the day, my grandmother threw me a surprise party. She baked my favorite chocolate fudge cake. I got tons of presents. We had such fun playing exciting games.

After lunch, my parents gave me a wonderful gift. They surprised me with a golden retriever puppy. I named her Goldie. She is my best friend today.

Later, my friends and I went to the zoo. We rode the elephants. The zoo was so large we walked for miles. Finally we gave up and rode the train.

Indeed, **It was the best birthday ever.**

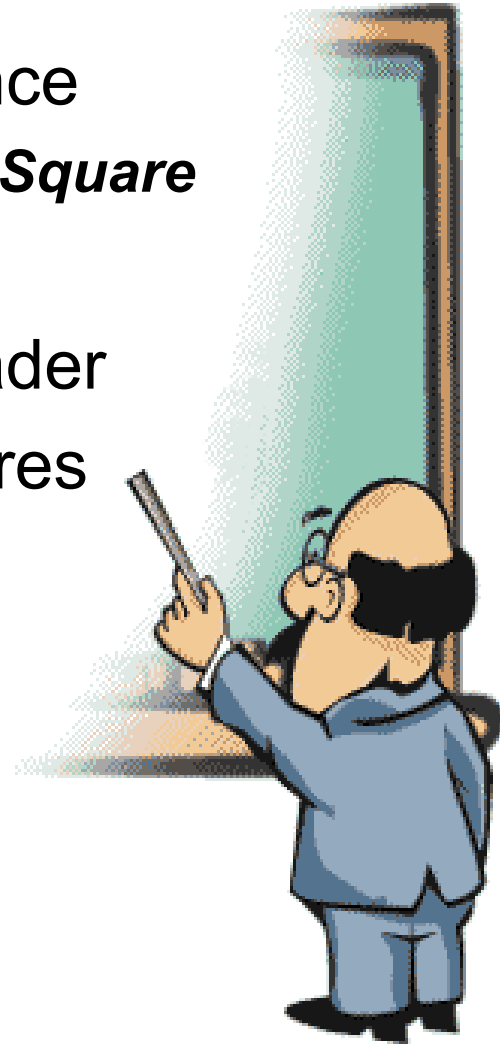
Improving the first paragraph  
(introductory).





# First Paragraph (Introduction)

- Topic Sentence
  - ✓ ***Center of 4 Square***
- Use a hook
- Prepares reader
- Ties all squares together



Getting a year older may be bad for some, but **I will never forget my sixth birthday.** The attention that I received from friends and family made me feel warm inside. It was a very special day for me.

On to the  
essay.....



Getting a year older may be bad for some, but **I will never forget my sixth birthday.** The attention that I received from friends and family made me feel warm inside. It was a very special day for me.

Early in the day, my grandmother threw me a surprise party. She baked my favorite chocolate fudge cake. I got tons of presents. We had such fun playing exciting games.

After lunch, my parents gave me a wonderful gift. They surprised me with a golden retriever puppy. I named her Goldie. She is my best friend today.

Later, my friends and I went to the zoo. We rode the elephants. The zoo was so large we walked for miles. Finally we gave up and rode the train.

Indeed, **It was the best birthday ever.**

---

# Improving the Final Paragraph (summary)



- Wrap-up Sentence with a Transition
- Personal/Feeling Sentence, Question or Exclamation(closing with a punch!)

Getting a year older may be bad for some, but **I will never forget my sixth birthday.** The attention that I received from friends and family made me feel warm inside. It was a very special day for me.

Early in the day, my grandmother threw me a surprise party. She baked my favorite chocolate fudge cake. I got tons of presents. We had such fun playing exciting games.

After lunch, my parents gave me a wonderful gift. They surprised me with a golden retriever puppy. I named her Goldie. She is my best friend today.

Later, my friends and I went to the zoo. We rode the elephants. The zoo was so large we walked for miles. Finally we gave up and rode the train.

Indeed, **it was the best birthday ever.** The wonderful surprises from my family and friends will stay with me forever.

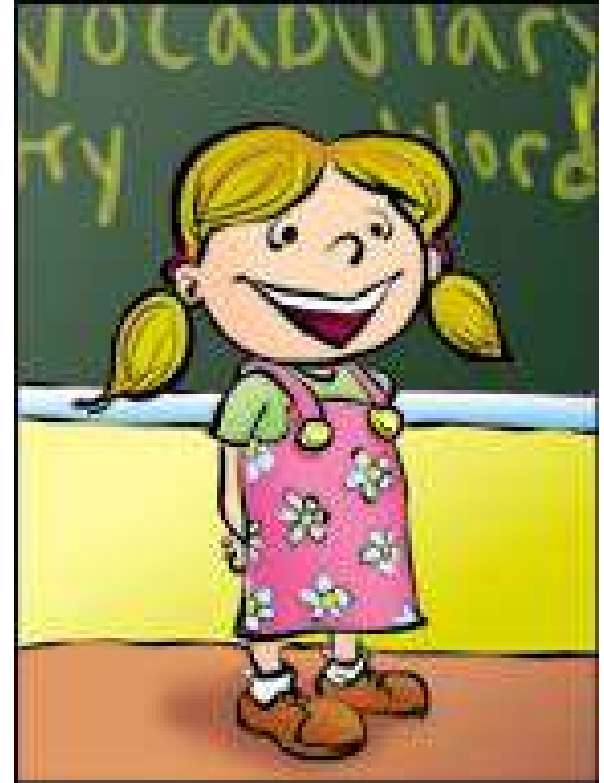
From this basic format to.....



# Narrative

## ■ Personal Narrative

- ☐ Has one topic
- ☐ Tells about the writer
- ☐ Has beginning, middle, end
- ☐ Uses words like I, me, my



# Narrative

## ■ Story

- ☐ Title
- ☐ Character
- ☐ Setting
- ☐ Problem
- ☐ Solution
- ☐ Beginning
- ☐ Middle
- ☐ End





# Moving from a 4 to a 5 or 6

- **Vocabulary**
  - **Sentence Development  
(Sentence Stretchers)**
  - **Hook**
  - **Visual Expression**
-

# Vocabulary

~~unfair~~

✓  
improper

~~bad~~

✓  
dreadful

---

# Sentence Development

## Sentence Stretching



# The Hook

To catch the reader, use a hook in the introductory paragraph.



Ask the reader a question.




Use a catchy phrase or quote.



Create a tongue twister.



Make an exclamatory sentence.

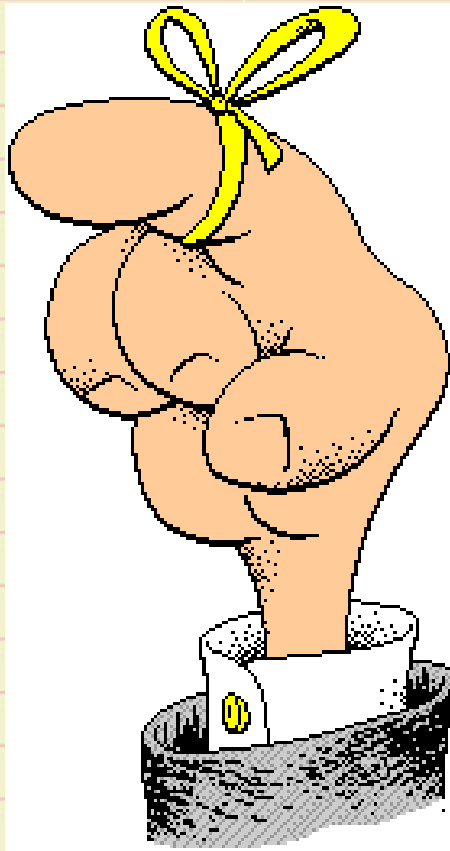


Use a lead in sentence that entices the reader to read on.

---

# Visual Expression

Use metaphors and similes to give your essay more visual expression.



~~At this point the teacher has no more control over the class than a blind race car driver would in a NASCAR race.~~

Next stop....



# *Holistic Scoring*



---

<http://jc-schools.net/write>

# *2006-2007 TCAP Writing Assessment Prompt*

## *- Grade 5*

- *Writing Situation: Suppose one day you found a flying carpet.*
  - *Directions for Writing: Before you begin writing, think about where you would go, what you would see, and what you would do.*
  - *Now write a pretend story about your day after finding a flying carpet.*
-

# Writing Assessment Scoring Rubric

| Criteria               | Score 1<br>Deficient                   | Score 2<br>Flawed   | Score 3<br>Limited  | Score 4 Competent                                      | Score 5<br>Strong   | Score 6<br>Outstanding   |
|------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| • <b>Organization</b>  | •Incoherent                            | •Weak organization  | •Inadequate organization  | •Adequately organized                                  | •Generally well organized   | •Well organized  |
| • <b>Development</b>   | •Undeveloped<br>•No details            | •Not developed<br>•Little or no relevant details                        | •Not developed<br>•Does not explain develop key ideas           | •Developed<br>•Explains and illustrates some key ideas | •Generally well developed<br>•Explains and illustrates most key ideas | •Well developed<br>•Clearly explains and illustrates key ideas |
| <b>Language Syntax</b> | •Limited or inappropriate word choice  | •Limited or inappropriate word choice                                   | •Limited or inappropriate word choice                           | •Adequate facility in the use of language              | •Demonstrates some syntactic variety<br>•Facility in use of language  | •Strong Syntactic variety                                      |
| <b>Mechanics</b>       | •Serious and persistent writing errors | •Serious errors in mechanics, usage, sentence structure, or word choice | •Accumulation of errors in mechanics, usage, sentence structure | •Some errors in mechanics/ usage                       | •Generally few errors in mechanics/<br>•usage                         | •Few errors in mechanics/ usage                                |

