

# ABCD's of On-demand Writing



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# What are the ABCD's of On-demand Writing?



- **A**
  - Attack the prompt
- **B**
  - Brainstorm possible answers
- **C**
  - Choose the order of your response
- **D**
  - Detect errors before turning the draft in

# ABCD: Attack the prompt



- If students do not know how to attack a prompt, they may find themselves distracted by verbiage.
- Some prompts contain two parts:
  - 1) Warm-up or background information
  - 2) Actual writing prompt
- For example:

By the time students enter high school, they have learned about many moments in history that have influenced our world today. Think about a moment in history you studied and consider its importance.

Write a composition in which you discuss a moment in history. Share its importance in today's world. Be sure to support the moment with details and examples.

# ABCD: Attack the prompt



- Three Steps to “Attack a prompt”
  - 1) Circle any words that ask you to do something.
  - 2) Draw an arrow(s) from each circled word to what it specifically tells you to do
  - 3) Under the prompt, rewrite and number the circled words and what the word asks you to do.

- For example:

Write a composition in which you discuss a moment in history. Share its importance in today’s world. Be sure to support the moment with details and examples.

1. Discuss – a moment in history
2. Share- its importance
3. Support- details/examples

# ABCD: Attack the prompt



- On the reverse side of your Cornell Notes, practice this strategy.
- Be prepared to show your writing coach your work.

# ABCD: Brainstorm possible answers



- Three Layers of “Brainstorming possible answers”
  - 1<sup>st</sup>) Brainstorm in the same order what the prompt asks you to do. Create a list of ideas for what the prompt asks first.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>) Select an idea and address what the prompt asks you to do.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>) Add supporting details, reasons, evidence, etc...

# ABCD: Brainstorm possible answers



- For example:

Write a composition in which you discuss a moment in history.

Share its importance in today's world. Be sure to support the moment with details and examples.

1<sup>st</sup> Layer

B

9/11

Holocaust

Declaration of  
Independence

Iraq War

1. Discuss – a moment in history
2. Share- its importance
3. Support- details/examples

# ABCD: Brainstorm possible answers



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Layer- Select an idea and address what prompt asks you to do.

1. Discuss – a moment in history
2. Share- its importance
3. Support- details/examples

The moment

B

9/11

Holocaust

Declaration of  
Independence

Iraq War

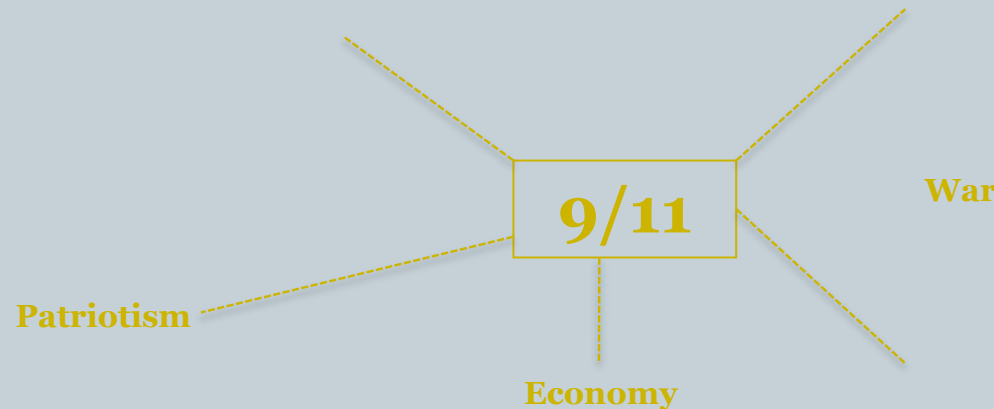
Security

Patriotism

9/11

Economy

War





# ABCD: Brainstorm possible answers



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Layer: Add supporting details, reasons, evidence, etc...

## B

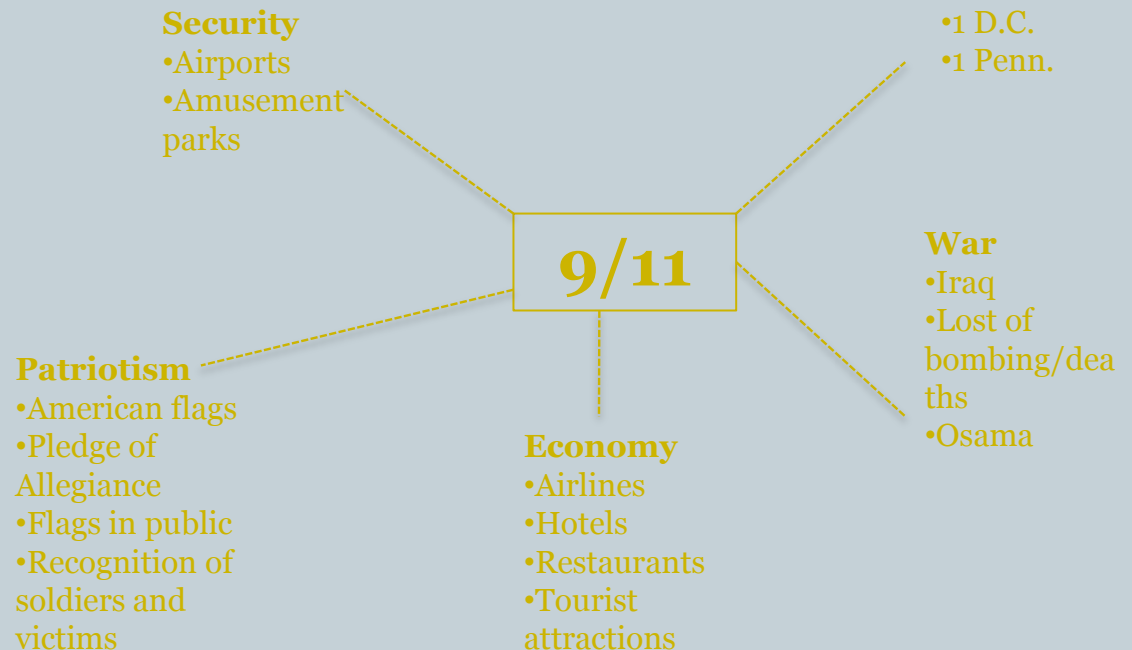
9/11

Holocaust

Declaration of Independence

Iraq War

1. Discuss – a moment in history
2. Share- its importance
3. Support- details/examples



# ABCD: Review



- What does the “A” stand for in the ABCD’s of On-demand writing?
  - A: Attack the prompt
- What steps of the on-demand writing process does the “A” in ABCD deal with?
  - A: Read, Understand and Annotate
- What does the “B” stand for in the ABCD’s of On-demand writing?
  - A: Brainstorm possible answers
- What type of prewrite strategy is used in the “B” in ABCD’s of On-demand writing?
  - Mind map (a.k.a. word web, word cluster, topic blast, etc...)

# ABCD: Choose the order of your response



- Students will write better in an on-demand setting if they take a few minutes to chart their courses.
- Revisit your brainstorm and choose the order of your response. Decide what goes first, second, and so on.
- Choosing your order may require you to cut out parts of your brainstorm.
- This step should be done immediately following, the “Brainstorming possible answers,” step

# ABCD: Choose the order of your response



- Choose the order of your response:

1. Discuss – a moment in history
2. Share- its importance
3. Support- details/examples

B

9/11  
Holocaust  
Declaration of  
Independence  
Iraq War

5

#### Security

- Airports
- Amusement parks

1

#### The moment

- Four airplanes
  - 2 NYC
  - 1 D.C.
  - 1 Penn.

2

#### War

- Iraq
- Lost of bombing/deaths
- Osama

9/11

4

#### Patriotism

- American flags
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Flags in public
- Recognition of soldiers and victims

3

#### Economy

- Airlines
- Hotels
- Restaurants
- Tourist attractions

# ABCD: Detect errors before turning your draft in



- Reread your essay after you finish drafting.
- There is real value in revising your work before turning it in.
- Writers often uncover silly mistakes when they review their paper before submitting.
- Perfection in a first draft is not the goal, rather the skill of detecting obvious errors is the focus.
- Examples of mistakes to look for:
  - Punctuation
  - Spelling
  - Agreement issues (tense, noun/pronoun, etc...)
  - Sentence fragments and/or run-ons