

STAAR WRITTEN COMPOSITIONS  
EXAMPLE OF LINED PAGE

Fosie had always marched to the beat of her own drum. She chose not to wear her hair in perfect braids with bows. She chose to let her frizzys, uncontrollable mane fly free. Her hair looked more like Mufasa's mane than it did human hair.

As Fosie walked in to her first day of high school she thought of all the friends she would make, how different it would be from middle school. Her baggy pants were covered with paint from her latest art obsession, and her shirt proudly displayed her politician of choice. Enthusiastically she marched up the stairs and right into Megan's back; coffee was everywhere.

Fosie was mortified, she knew girls like Megan in middle school. They were the beautiful, rich, mean, make your life miserable kind of girls. "I'm so sorry," Fosie muttered. She told herself it was all over, high school was ruined. This girl's shirt probably cost more than Fosie's entire outfit and she had just ruined it. Fosie waited for the anger.

"It's cool," she laughed as she turned towards Fosie. "My name's Megan, what's yours?" "Fosie; I'm so sorry I ruined your shirt." Fosie was in shock and she was still a little scared. "Don't worry about it, my mom made me wear it, is this your first day? I'm so nervous, let me see your schedule." Megan had just met her first friend of many in high school.

No one expected the little girl who played with bugs to become the Oprah Winfrey we know and love today. People do not always dress or appear in a way that shows who they really are. It is dangerous, and you should not form opinions about people without getting to know them, because people put on facades and their situation may prevent them from dressing the way they want.

People put on facades and hide who they really are from the world. Not taking your time to get to know people is like not reading a book because you don't like the color of the cover. My best friend and I hated each other at first. I thought she looked like a spoiled brat, and she thought I looked like a party girl. Our rush to judgement could have cost us our friendship of now 10 years.

Circumstances can limit a person's ability to dress or present themselves the way they want. Financial limitations prevent us from having nice, new clothes and people assume we are lazy or trashy. Maybe there was a death in the family or a parent was laid off. Either way, a person's clothes do not always reveal their true character.

You should never judge a book by its cover. The character of a person is hidden inside the cover, behind the mask of poverty or facade they choose to wear. Give them a chance, they may become your best friend.

It's important to get to know people before an opinion is formed, because people often put on facades. People need to be known to see behind the mask, to see, passed the appearances and actions.

All kinds of people put on facades. A clear example of this is bullies. People describe bullies as mean, cold-hearted people when really they may be nothing of the sort. Bullies may have reasons for behaving that way; for example physical or mental abuse. Understanding their situation changes one's opinion of them.

Quiet people are also misunderstood. They can be seen as arrogant, shy, or weird, but they may be coping with family stress or pressure, mental or physical abuse. Quiet people may be going through the same things as the bullies are but are handling it in their own way.

It is important to know someone before forming an opinion of them. One must see passed the facade, passed the various masks people choose to hide behind.