

# TOP 10 BASIC PRINCIPLES OF COMPOSITION

PREPARATION TIME: 30'

TEACHING TIME: 1 X 60'

## ABSTRACT

This learning scenario offers practical writing tips on some of the basic principles of composition. Following the seminal book, *The Elements of Style* by Strunk&White, it summarizes these elements into a top 10 elementary principles of composition. These 10 practical rules/advice are: Keep related words together; In summaries, keep to one tense; Place the emphatic words of a sentence at the end; Avoid a succession of loose sentences; Omit needless words, Use definite, specific, concrete language, Put statements in positive form, Use the active voice, Make the paragraph the unit of composition, Choose a suitable design and hold to it.

## KEYWORDS

*Composition,  
Writing,  
Reporting,  
Style*

## ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- *Lesson on the Elementary Principles of Composition from [mediativeyouth.net](http://mediativeyouth.net)*
- *Prezi presentation Elementary Principles of Composition*
- *The Elements of Style by Strunk&White*
- *Online Tests on Style*

## LESSON AIM

The aim of the lesson is for the participants to understand some practical tips for good composition that is essential for writing and see what the professionals think are the most important features of journalistic writing and good reporting.

## LESSON OUTCOME

The participants will understand better the basic principles of composition, be able to recognize them, and thus equipped to practice them further and apply them in their writing.

## LESSON IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

**Min 1-5 Warming-up:** An effective way of involving participants and setting common expectations about what they will learn is to ask a few preliminary questions on the subject. The educator introduces the topic and class contents, prepares PowerPoint/Prezi presentation and blog link; various teaching methods: lecturing, discussion, self-reflection.

**Collaborative learning** – in 30 minutes participants talk about the media; using a Prezi presentation, the educator shows the representative tips about principles of composition. These 10 tips are presented in the reversed order from no. 10 to no. 1, like in the top list of greatest hits, in order to be more attractive and engaging for the participants. These top 10 tips are: *Keep related words together; In summaries, keep to one tense; Place the emphatic words of a sentence at the end; Avoid a succession of loose sentences; Omit needless words, Use definite, specific, concrete language, Put statements in positive form, Use the active voice, Make the paragraph the unit of composition, Choose a suitable design and hold to it.*

**In the next 5 minutes**, the educator acknowledges and shows the book ***The Elements of Style*** by *Strunk & White* about basic principles of writing in English and recommends it for further use.

While presenting the content make sure to interact with the trainees and encourage them for active participation.

**40-55 Game Based Learning / Knowledge Assessment** – participants take a test on good style via Moodle.

**55-60 Conclusion:** Make a short summary of the lesson and ask a couple of questions which help underlying the most important messages you would like to give.

## MATERIALS / TOOLS

Video projector, laptop/desktop, Internet connection, Moodle!

PowerPoint / Prezi presentation which is enriched with visual materials (images) and research based factual information.