

**2024 MENDAKI Exam Ready Campaign**  
**PSLE Standard EL Subject-based Strategies**

**Composition Writing**

<p>Understand the Format</p>	<p><b>Strategy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Different Types of Compositions:</b> Get to know the different types of compositions you might have to write, like narrative, descriptive, argumentative, or expository essays. Practice identifying the key features of each type.</li> <li>• <b>Practice with Past Papers:</b> Try writing compositions from past PSLE papers to get used to the structure, common themes, and what examiners are looking for.</li> </ul> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Narrative:</b> Write a story about a time when you helped someone in need. Focus on setting, characters, and plot development.</li> <li>• <b>Descriptive:</b> Describe a busy marketplace. Use words that make your reader feel like they are there with you.</li> <li>• <b>Argumentative:</b> Should children have unlimited access to technology? Present your opinion and support it with reasons.</li> </ul>
<p>Plan Your Essay</p>	<p><b>Strategy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brainstorming Techniques:</b> Before you start writing, spend a few minutes brainstorming ideas. Use mind maps or bullet points to quickly jot down your thoughts. Think of a clear storyline or argument that you want to follow.</li> <li>• <b>Time Management:</b> Make sure to manage your time well during the exam. You could spend 5 minutes planning, 25 minutes writing, and 10 minutes editing to make sure you finish on time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mind Map for a Narrative Essay:</b> Create a mind map for a story about "A Surprise Birthday Party." Include branches for setting, characters, events, and emotions.</li> <li>• <b>Outline for an Argumentative Essay:</b> Draft an outline for "The Importance of Recycling," listing points for the introduction, supporting arguments, counterarguments, and conclusion.</li> </ul>
<p>Develop a Strong Opening</p>	<p><b>Strategy:</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hook Techniques:</b> Start your composition with a strong opening to grab the reader’s attention. You can do this by using a quote, an intriguing question, a vivid description, or an unexpected fact.</li> <li>• <b>Purposeful Introductions:</b> Make sure your introduction clearly introduces the theme or topic of your composition, and gives a hint about what’s coming next.</li> </ul> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Narrative Hook:</b> “The eerie silence of the abandoned house was shattered by the creak of a floorboard.”</li> <li>• <b>Argumentative Hook:</b> “In a world where plastic waste is choking our oceans, the need for recycling has never been more urgent.”</li> </ul>
Organise Your Ideas	<p><b>Strategy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clear Structure:</b> Make sure your composition has a clear structure with an introduction, body, and conclusion. Each paragraph should focus on one main idea, and all your ideas should flow logically from one to the next.</li> <li>• <b>Linking Phrases:</b> Use transitional words and phrases (e.g., furthermore, however, as a result) to connect your ideas smoothly and help guide your reader through your essay.</li> </ul> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Body Paragraphs for Descriptive Essay:</b> If you’re describing a beach, one paragraph could focus on what you see (e.g., the golden sand, the sparkling water), another on what you hear (e.g., the waves crashing, the seagulls cawing), and another on what you smell (e.g., the salty air, the scent of sunscreen).</li> <li>• <b>Transitional Phrases:</b> “Moreover, the benefits of recycling extend beyond environmental preservation...”</li> </ul>
Use Descriptive Language	<p><b>Strategy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Show, Don’t Tell:</b> Instead of just telling the reader how a character feels or what a place looks like, show them by using actions, sensory details, and vivid descriptions.</li> <li>• <b>Varied Vocabulary:</b> Try to use a variety of descriptive words and synonyms to make your writing more interesting. Practice using new words in different contexts to make your writing more colorful and engaging.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Show, Don't Tell:</b> Instead of saying "She was scared," you could write, "Her heart raced as the shadows in the alley seemed to grow darker and closer."</li> <li>• <b>Vivid Vocabulary:</b> Replace common words with more descriptive ones: "happy" could become "elated," and "beautiful" could become "breathtaking."</li> </ul>
Revise and Edit	<p><b>Strategy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Self-Editing Checklists:</b> After you finish writing, use a checklist to review your essay. Look out for spelling and grammar mistakes, check if your ideas make sense, and make sure your writing is clear and easy to follow.</li> <li>• <b>Peer Review:</b> You can also exchange your composition with a classmate and give each other feedback. Sometimes another person can spot mistakes or give you ideas for improvement that you might have missed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Editing Checklist:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are there any spelling or grammatical errors?</li> <li>○ Does each paragraph have a clear main idea?</li> <li>○ Have I varied my sentence structure?</li> <li>○ Are my ideas logically connected?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Peer Review:</b> After writing, swap essays with a friend and use a checklist to give each other feedback, helping each other identify areas for improvement.</li> </ul>

*Well done! All the best for your examinations!*