

# Meaningful Composition Book 6+

Long and Strong--First Semester Book

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The *Character Quality Language Arts* program and *Meaningful Composition* books are designed for families who desire to study God's Word, biblical principles, and godly character while developing excellent communication skills.

For more information about other curriculum items (including speech and debate), teaching tapes for homeschooling parents, character books (including the popular *Character Sketches* books), *The Well-Trained Heart* (homeschooling/parenting book), and additional materials written by the Reishes, contact:

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# Meaningful Composition: How to Use This Book

The *Meaningful Composition* series was designed for home schools, co-ops, and Christian schools who want their students to learn to write compositions of many types that are meaningful, as opposed to typical “What I Want to Be When I Grow Up” type of essays and reports. It was designed to teach the entire writing process from thinking to outlining to writing to revising. It is written in what Training for Triumph calls “the directed writing approach.” That is, there is no guess work as to what to write, how many paragraphs to write, how many sources to use, how to outline, or how to revise. It is all laid out for the student step-by-step within these pages.

Level 4+ begins with sentence writing and combining, then goes into paragraph writing, then essay and report writing; Books 6+ and 8+ contain original compositions of varying lengths and types, as well as some instruction and practice with Key Word Outline essays from given material. All levels and all books implement revising and editing instructions. MC books of other levels (in addition to 4+, 6+, and 8+) are coming soon. Check our website for availability.

*Meaningful Composition* may be used over one semester or an entire school year, depending on your school calendar and time allotted for composition. (The elementary books are set up in a day-by-day format. The middle school and high school books are set up in a weekly or two week format.) MC may be used as a stand-alone English curriculum for the student who has already mastered spelling and vocabulary studies and has a fundamental knowledge of grammar. It may be combined with a grammar program if your student is still in the grammar-learning stage. (It is not recommended that you add another grammar program while doing the first six weeks of *Meaningful Composition 4+* as these weeks introduce many grammar items throughout the writing instruction, and an additional grammar program simultaneously may confuse the young writer.) The MC books are also ideal co-op or small group writing books as they give each teacher confidence to teach with their step-by-step, directed writing approaches and accompanying lesson plans.

**To use *Meaningful Composition* as a one-semester, stand-alone English curriculum**, you can simply start at the beginning of the book and spread the compositions out over the time recommended. (There are at least eighteen weeks worth of assignments in each *Meaningful Composition* book as stand-alone curriculum books for one semester of instruction. This is shown in the layout of each book.) Your student will need to look up any grammar concepts that he is told to include in his compositions (quotation marks, semicolons, etc.) if he is unfamiliar with writing with them. For the student who has already had the fundamentals of grammar study, *Meaningful Composition* becomes the application of those grammar skills via the Checklist Challenge that each composition must have applied to it.

The method of instruction in *Meaningful Composition* Books 6+ and 8+ will require one or two one-hour meetings each week with the teacher to discuss the assignment, introduce the outlining technique, check the student’s rough draft, review his Checklist Challenge, and grade his final composition. In addition, he will need to work approximately 45 to 60 minutes a day three or four days a week by himself in *Meaningful Composition* in order to complete all of the assignments contained therein during a one-semester period of time. (Again, the time and teacher assistance in Book 4+ will vary according to whether the student is learning to write sentences or multiple paragraph compositions (ie. the early or latter parts of the book). It is recommended that you start out working together in Book 4+ and see which areas your student is able to work alone and which areas he needs your assistance.)