

# Cardinal Compositions

University of Louisville

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## Are You Born a Good Writer? ([Video Essay](https://youtu.be/9E6Dt7uDjQA))

Parker Evans

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### For the Classroom

In this humorous video essay, themed after the show *MythBusters*, the speaker asks the audience, “Are you born as a good writer? Or do you learn?” To investigate, he interviews a newborn baby and explores different kinds of writing, including video games, texting, and calligraphy.

For a short in-class activity, pose this same question to students: “Are we born good writers? Or can we learn to be?”

1. First, you will ask them to write their own response to this question. What do they believe is the correct answer? Why? They should write a response talking about their own experience with writing in order to back up their claim. This can be a timed writing exercise for 5+ minutes.
2. Then, after their responses are written, ask them to pair up with another student in class. Each student will interview their partner and record their classmate’s response in a notebook. To complete the activity, they must interview at least three other students and then create a short analysis of their data. What kinds of narratives did people give to explain their argument? And what conclusions can be drawn about people’s ideas of what it means to be a good writer?
3. *Multimodal Alternative*: Ask students to record each interview and create a short TikTok video to present to the class.

## Transcript of “Are You Born a Good Writer?” ([Video Essay](#))

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[*MythBusters* theme song plays]

**Narrator:** Hello, thanks for tuning in to *MythBusters*. Today, I'm at a local hospital investigating the lifelong myth: Are you born as a good writer? Or do you learn?

Today on my first *MythBusters* episode, I'm gonna be interviewing a live, one-minute year old baby to find out if this myth is really true. Okay, just one moment until the nurse prepares our interviewee. Alright, looks like he's good to go. So, let's just get straight to the point here, um, sir, are you a good writer? [pause] Alright, thank you. Looks like that's all we need. [buzzer noise]

As we clearly see from this interview, there's no way you can be born as a good writer. No matter what you're doing or the circumstances in your life, there's always ways that you can improve your writing and become a better writer.

Today, there are many different ways of writing including video games, texting, and even calligraphy. If you're a student today, and you think you were born a bad writer, just know there are so many different types of writing that you use every day, and you can always work to improve these. [bald eagle screech]

[End]