

What is Informative/ Explanatory Writing?

(6th Grade)

The Why and How of Informative/Explanatory Writing?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2.A

Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2.B

Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2.C

Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2.D

Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2.E

Establish and maintain a formal style.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2.F

Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.

How is it different from other forms of writing ?

- Informative/Explanatory writing does not tell a story
- Informative/Explanatory writing does not persuade a reader but only gives facts and reasons
- Informative/Explanatory writing can also give the steps of a process

Informative/Explanatory Writing

- Introduction of an informational/explanatory should include the main idea and what the essay is about
- The three main reasons supporting this main idea should also be included in the introduction

Informative/Explanatory writing contd.

- Paragraph two should introduce the first reason and give details to support the first reason
- Paragraph three should introduce the second reason and give details to support the second reason
- Paragraph four should introduce the third reason and give details to support the third reason
- The conclusion should re-state all the reasons

Explanatory Essay:

There are three different types of explanatory essays:

- 1) Essay that is developed with examples and/or facts and statistics
- 2) Essay that is developed with steps in a process
- 3) Essay that is in a compare and contrast format

Example:

Paragraph 1: Introductory Paragraph

- A. Thesis sentence _____
- B. Background info _____
- C. Statistics- if relevant _____

Paragraph 2: Reason#1 or Process #1 Use a transition word

- A. Example/detail #1 _____
- B. Example/detail #2 _____
- C. Example/detail#3 _____

Paragraph 3: Reason #2or Process #2 Use a transition word

- A. Example/detail #1 _____
- B. Example/detail#2 _____
- C. Example/detail #3 _____

Paragraph 4: Reason #3 or Process #3 Use a transition word

- A. Example/detail #1 _____
- B. Example/detail #2 _____
- C. Example/detail#3 _____

Paragraph 5: Conclusion:

Take a reason from each paragraph and RE-STATE it in the conclusion. Add a clincher sentence.

Evaluation:

Do you have a clear logical topic?

Have you introduced your topic in the first paragraph?

Do you have one reason per paragraph?

Do you have three details to support each reason?

Have you used transition words at the beginning of each paragraph?



Key Vocabulary

- Thesis Statement: A short statement that summarizes the main point of an essay.
- Hook: Hook your reader with a question, quote, short anecdote, or personal experience statement
- Transition words: Words such as first, second, as a result, which make transitions easy in the essay.
- Main Ideas: The most important or central thought of a paragraph.
- Supporting Details: Details that support the main ideas.

Topic Ideas:

No more drugs

Details: addictive, hurts families, expensive

Cure Aids

Details: epidemic, people are dying, world is unsafe

Cure Cancer

Details: families are split apart, people die, it is a disease which affects all of us

Equality among people/race/religion

Details: examples of race, religion etc.

Stop pollution

Details: water purity, ozone layer, fish die, people have respiratory diseases

Animal Abuse

Details: animal testing, cruelty to animals, elephant poaching

Child Abuse

Details: neglect, physical abuse, verbal abuse

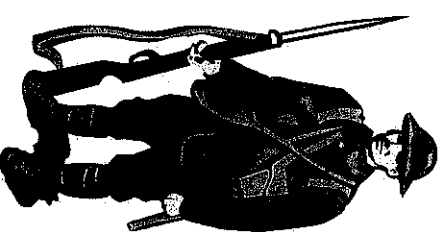
Re-Cap:

Informative/Explanatory writing needs:

- One topic
- Reasons supporting that topic
- Details supporting the reasons
- A conclusion re-stating the reasons
- Transition words
- Clear, concise, logical and informative language

Topic: How I Would Change the World

- Brainstorm
- Think of three ways in which you would like to change the world
- Put those three ways on a bubble map
- For each way, give three reasons why you chose them

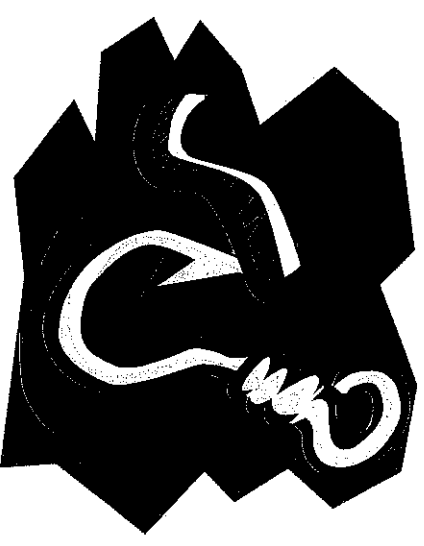


Details

- Can be descriptive
- Can be factual
- Can be from personal experience
- Can be anecdotes

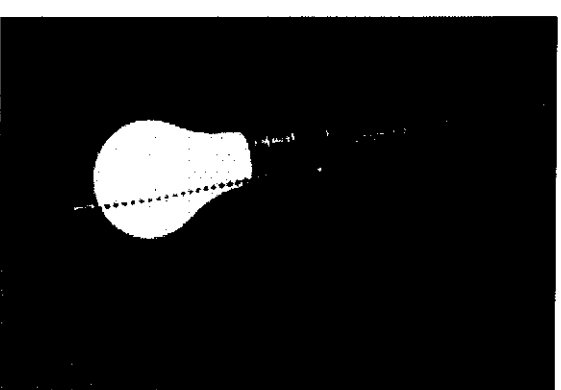
Introduction

- Now let's write the introduction together, now that we know what we are writing about.
- 1. Hook- Hook your reader with a question, quote, short anecdote, or personal experience statement



Introduction –contd.

- Write one “background” or informational sentence about each idea you are going to write about-
- Idea 1
- Idea 2
- Idea 3



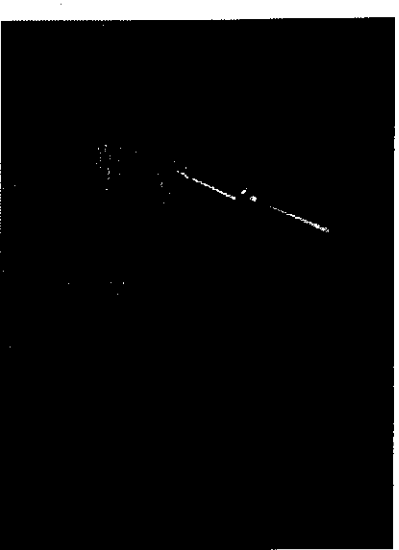
Thesis Statement

- The thesis statement can be first in the paragraph, last in the paragraph or implied throughout the paragraph
- Example: I would like to change the world by improving the poverty situation in our world, alleviating crime, and helping the homeless.

Paragraph One

- Thesis statement
- Background information on your topic

Transition Words



- Add your transition words
- First
- Second
- Third
- Finally, or In Conclusion



Paragraph 2

- Put main idea for paragraph 2 on the outline
- Add your details
- Personal experiences
- Descriptive details- describe experience
- Facts about the topic-
- Short anecdotes



Paragraph 3

- Put your main idea on the outline
- Add your details
- Personal experiences
- Description of how the topic works itself out
- Examples of the topic



Paragraph 4

- Add your main idea onto your outline
- Add your details
- Personal examples of how the idea has been experienced by you in your life
- Describe how the idea “looks” or what the person does
- Facts

Conclusion

- Re-state all of your ideas in your conclusion



Editing your essay

- Check that you have all the elements of an expository essay:
 - Reasons
 - Details
 - Transition words
 - Conclusion that re-states your topic
 - Grammar
- Coherence, logic and clearly written

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AGGREGATION / ADDITION / SIMILARITY

in the first place
not only ... but also
as a matter of fact
in like manner
in addition
coupled with
in the same fashion / way
first, second, third
in the light of
not to mention
to say nothing of
equally important
by the same token

again
to
and
also
then
equally
identically
uniquely
like
as
too

moreover
as well as
together with
of course
likewise
comparatively
correspondingly
similarly
furthermore
additionally

CONCLUSION / SUMMARY /
RESUMING

as can be seen
generally speaking
in the final analysis
all things considered
as shown above
in the long run
given these points
as has been noted
in a word
for the most part

after all
in fact
in summary
in conclusion
in short
in brief
in essence
to summarize
on balance
altogether

overall
ordinarily
usually
by and large
to sum up
on the whole
in any event
in either case
all in all

Name: _____

Date: _____

Informative Writing Advanced Graphic Organizer

Title: _____

Topic Paragraph

Question:

Story:

Fact 1:

Fact 2:

Transition word:

Fact 1

Topic Sentence

Quote:

Supporting Detail #1

Supporting Detail #2

Transition word:

Fact 2

Topic Sentence

Quote:

Supporting Detail #1

Supporting Detail #2

Closing Transition word:

I learned...

I want ...

_____ is important because...

In the future...



Cite Information from Text Using Quotations



*Punctuation: commas (,) - quotation marks (") - period (.)

Quote Starters						
The writer said, " _____ "						
According to the text, " _____ "						
In this example, " _____ "						
The passage told us, " _____ "						
The author suggested, " _____ "						
According to the article, the author said, " _____ "						
This is how you compose a sentence using a quote:						
Quote starter		Finger Space	"	Quote from the text	end mark (. 1?)	"

Use a *Quote Starter* and *correct punctuation* to cite information from a text.

1. _____

2. _____

Quote “	Comma ,
Period .	Comma ,
Quote “	Period .



Name: _____ Date: _____



Title: _____

Introduction Paragraph

Introduction Sentence:

Question:

Fact 1:

Fact 2:

Transition word:

Fact 1

Topic Sentence:

Quote:

Supporting Detail #1

Supporting Detail #2

Transition word:

Fact 2
Topic Sentence:
Quote:
Supporting Detail #1
Supporting Detail #2

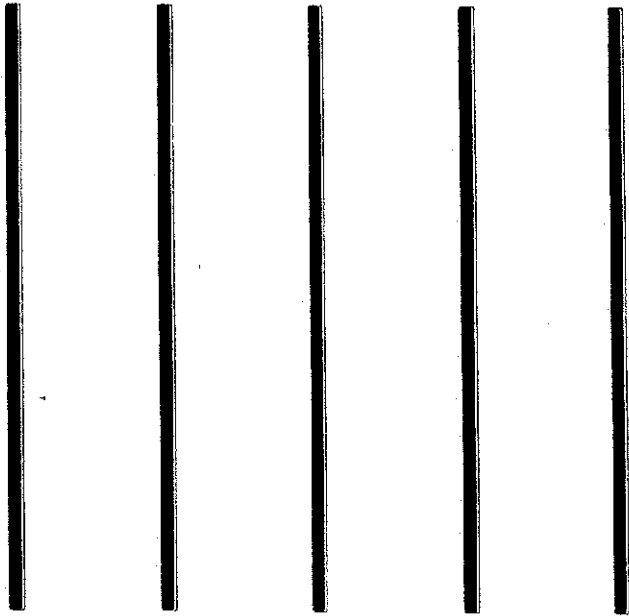
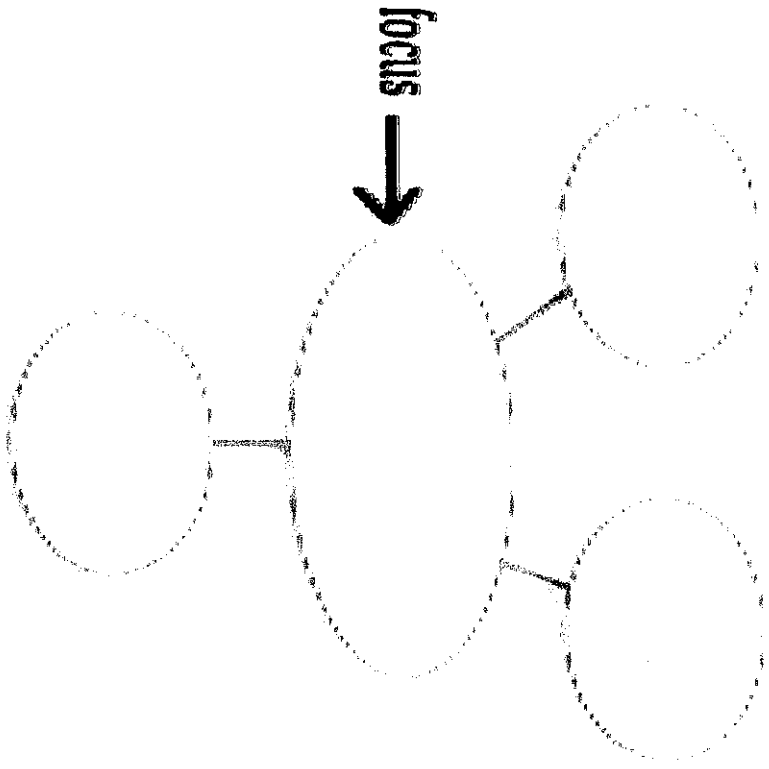
Closing Transition word:

Topic Sentence:

Restate Fact 1:

Restate Fact 2:

Closing Sentence



Academic Vocabulary Development

These resources can be used to facilitate the development of Tier 2 and Tier 3 academic vocabulary terms.

Tier 2 - The Personal Thesaurus Building Academic Vocabulary

<input type="checkbox"/>		
earhustle (v)	argue (v)	nice (adj)
*eavesdrop	*counter	pleasant
snoop	disagree	enjoyable
spy	dispute	agreeable
pry	maintain	satisfying
	agree	unpleasant

My Personal Thesaurus

Close Reading (annotate the text)

Hashtags (#)

#✓ - confirms what you thought

#X - contradicts what you thought

#? - raises a question you have

#?? - confuses you

#★ - seems important

#! - is new, interesting to you

#□ - unknown word

#” “ - evidence

#_____ - _____ (your choice)

Name _____ Date _____ Section _____

General Editing Checklist for the Five-Paragraph Essay

✓ = everything is included ✓- = needs work 0 = not there

The Introduction

- _____ Begins with an attention-getting sentence related to the essay topic.
- _____ Moves from general information about the topic to more specific information.
- _____ Contains a three-point thesis statement that clearly states the main idea of the essay, expresses an opinion or point of view about the topic, and briefly outlines the subject of each body paragraph.
- _____ Is three to five sentences in length.

The Body

- _____ Has a topic sentence that relates back to the thesis.
- _____ Develops its topic and supports it with a minimum of three specific details.
- _____ Contains two or three transition words or phrases that connect one idea to another.
- _____ Contains a clincher or concluding sentence. This sentence summarizes the main idea of the paragraph, leads into the next paragraph, or does both.
- _____ Transitions between body paragraphs are evident and clear. One paragraph flows naturally into another.
- _____ The paragraphs are clear, logical, and easy to understand.

The Conclusion

- _____ Includes a detail or example from the introduction that wraps up the essay.
- _____ Restates, or echoes, the thesis statement without simply repeating it.
- _____ Summarizes the major points.
- _____ Ends with a strong image or powerful statement.
- _____ Is three to five sentences in length.