

Expository/Informative Essay



The Expository/Informative Essay

- ◆ The **Informative Essay** is the first one you will learn to write. This kind of writing **explains** something, **tells** something, or it **gives directions**.
- ◆ For example, if you wrote about your favorite aunt, you would be writing an **informative/expository** essay **telling** us something about your aunt. Likewise, if you wrote an essay that gave directions for making a paper airplane, you would also be writing an **informative/expository** essay that **gives directions**.

Expository/Informative Essay

◆ An Expository Essay has 5 sections:

1. Introductory paragraph
2. First body paragraph
3. Second body paragraph
4. Third body paragraph
5. Concluding paragraph

ALL Good Writing must Contain

Unity: Paper Focused on one topic

This means your paper is focused on one topic.

Paper Air Plane, not Paper lamps in same essay

ALL Good Writing must Contain

Structure: Skeleton

An essay is like a skeleton in the way its structure will be same for each of you as it hold paper together, but your own creative ideas will make your essay look different from anyone else's

ALL Good Writing must Contain

Transition: Use words which will help you move smoothly from one idea in your essay to the next idea.

- ◆ Examples: first, another, most important, for example, on the other hand, etc.

ALL Good Writing must Contain

Development: Give information that will make your essay interesting and fun to read.

Anecdotes: little short stories that create a picture in our minds when we read your essay. If you just said your favorite aunt was interesting without telling us about her, your paper would not be **developed**

ALL Good Writing must Contain

◆ Vivid detail and description

- Giving good details is another way to develop your paper. Give your aunt a name, describe a crazy habit she has, or tell us about the odd hats she always wears. These are all details that make us “see” your aunt as we read your paper.
- Write in an active voice instead of a passive voice! Subject will do action instead of being acted upon.
Example: Jackie slammed the ball out of the park.
Non Example: The ball was slammed out of the park by Jackie.
- Use Strong image-making ACTION VERBS instead of weak Linking Verbs
- Chose VIVID ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS in all your writing.
- Use Figurative Language—Examples: metaphors, similes, and other figurative language devices.

Before you Begin... You must Know

- ◆ **Topic**—What you are going to write about
- ◆ **Direction**—Which way you are going to write about your topic.
- ◆ **Three ideas, points, or reasons** you are going to write about your subject
- ◆ You will put these three things together in one sentence called your **thesis sentence**.

Preparing to Write

- ◆ Choose a topic (this will be provided by prompt)
- ◆ Direction: Decide which way you are going to write about your topic
- ◆ Build a cluster outline
 - ◆ Circle: top half=topic; bottom half=direction
 - ◆ 5-12 rays
 - ◆ Choose your favorite 3 points and number them 1,2,3 (3 should be most important reason)
 - ◆ Write thesis sentence at bottom of page

Thesis Sentence

- ◆ Thesis sentence is **Road map** of you essay. You **cannot write a paper correctly without it!**
- ◆ Your thesis sentences keeps you from getting lost when you are writing.
- ◆ **ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS** write out your thesis sentence.

3 Parts of Thesis Sentence

- ◆ Topic or Subject: what you are writing about
- ◆ Direction: the way you have decided to write about your topic/subject.
- ◆ 3 points or reasons
- ◆ Example: Kawana is my favorite aunt because she is makes me laughs, makes me brownies, and is there whenever I need someone for support.

Introductory Paragraph

1. Opening Sentence (interest catcher, hook, or lead). Make the reader want to read the rest of your paper. Be as creative as you can.
2. Supporting sentences: two to three supporting sentences
3. Thesis sentence: you already have it written at bottom of your outline page. **ALWAYS** place the thesis sentence last in the 1st paragraph of your essay.

Writing an Interesting First Sentence

- ◆ **Begin with a rhetorical question** (Asked for effect—no need to answer) Example: Do you know someone who seems just about perfect to you?
- ◆ **Use figurative language:** Example: My mother wraps her love around me like a warm blanket.
- ◆ **Start with a famous quote:** There is an old saying that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.
- ◆ **Begin with a sentence that tells something about the background of your subject.** Example: We found my dog Skip in an abandoned well, unwanted and dying.

Three Body Paragraphs

- ◆ Each body paragraph will be on one of the 3 points you listed in your thesis sentence.
- ◆ Each point must be written in the order in which it appeared in your thesis sentence.
- ◆ First Body Paragraph will be about the point you listed first
- ◆ Second Body Paragraph discusses the second point
- ◆ Third Body Paragraph will be about third point.

TIP: Look back at your thesis sentence to be sure you write about each point in its proper place!

First Body Paragraph

- ◆ Comes immediately *AFTER* introductory paragraph
- ◆ Begin with a transitional sentence (topic sentence). Example:
The first reason_____ is my favorite relative is because he is _____.

Transitional sentence should contain:

1. Transitional term (First, one, etc.)
2. Topic or subject of your paper
3. Direction
4. First point or reason you listed in the thesis sentence

First Body Paragraph

- ◆ Develop the point
 - ◆ After you have written a transition sentence develop the point you mentioned.
 - ◆ NEVER write about any of the other points for this first body paragraph or you will lose the unity of your paper.
 - ◆ Anecdote (short, short story)—help the reader “see” the point clearly
 - ◆ Figurative language—similes, metaphors, personification, etc.
 - ◆ Action Verbs—write in active voice.
 - ◆ Vivid Adjectives and Adverbs
 - ◆ Use your 5 senses to describe
 - ◆ Write a good closure sentence

Second Body Paragraph

- ◆ 2nd reason or point from thesis sentence (3rd paragraph of your essay)
- ◆ Transitional (Topic) Sentence:
 - ◆ Examples:
 - ◆ The second reason_____ is my favorite relative is because he _____.
 - ◆ Another reason_____ is my favorite relative is because he _____.

Notice transitional sentence has: (1) transitional term, (2) topic, (3) direction, and (4) second point or reason from thesis sentence.

Second Body Paragraph

- ◆ After transition (topic) sentence, develop your point.
- ◆ Be sure not to talk about anything else, or you will have unrelated sentences, which will destroy unity of an essay.
- ◆ Ways to develop point:
 - ◆ Anecdote-short, short story
 - ◆ Vivid verbs, adjectives, and adverbs
 - ◆ Descriptions using your five senses
 - ◆ Figurative language

Third Body Paragraph

- ◆ 3rd reason or point from thesis sentence (4th paragraph of your essay)
- ◆ Transitional (Topic) Sentence:
 - ◆ (1) Transitional term (2) topic (3) Direction (4) Third point from thesis sentence.
 - ◆ Example:
 - ◆ The most important reason _____ is my favorite relative is because he _____.

Notice word “most important reason”: Third point needs to be BEST point

Third Body Paragraph

- ◆ Never rush or cut off this paragraph. It is the one your readers will remember best. Use the same ways to develop the paragraph
- ◆ Develop with transition, detail, example, and support.
- ◆ Remember best way is with an anecdote for each reason and with figurative language.
- ◆ Do not simply list or make catalogs as your support.

The Conclusion

- ◆ 5th and final paragraph is the Conclusion.
- ◆ It needs to be shorter than the others, no more than 2 or 3 sentences.
- ◆ It sums up what you have said in your paper.
- ◆ Do not simply repeat your thesis sentence
- ◆ Never, never, NEVER introduce new material in your conclusion
- ◆ Begin the 5th paragraph with transitional phrase: In conclusion,

General Guidelines for Informative/Expository Essay

- ◆ Never start a paragraph with “Here” or “There”. They are empty words.
- ◆ Write in first or third person.
- ◆ Use good mechanics and grammar. No one wants to read what you have to say if you don’t care enough about it to clean up your writing!

General Guidelines for Informative/Expository Essay

- ◆ Add lots of detail (stories, figurative language, sensory words and a wise use of dialogue).
- ◆ Write in active voice instead of passive—choose strong ACTION VERBS that create images. Also use imaginative adjectives and adverbs.
- ◆ Write about something that interests you so it will be more interesting to your audience.
- ◆ Indent each new paragraph.
- ◆ **Revise.** Then read again and revise again. Keep on improving your writing until you can be proud of it. Never turn in a rough draft that has not been read over completely **at least once**. Every time you re-read your paper, you will find more mistakes to correct.
- ◆ **Take pride in your writing.**

What makes Good Writing?

- ◆ Purpose: Follows prompt completely
- ◆ Content: Develops your subject well
- ◆ Audience: Appeals to your audience
- ◆ Structure: Has logical progression and good closure
- ◆ Thesis Sentence: Gives essay definite plan and strategy
- ◆ Paragraphs: Do not contain unrelated sentences
- ◆ Unity: Presents ideas that flow smoothly (called transition)
- ◆ Show proficient command of grammar usage and mechanics
- ◆ Varies Sentence structure to make writing more interesting
- ◆ Creative