

Explanatory Essay


3 paragraph minimum

By the end of the year your goal is to be able to write 5 paragraphs.
So if in your last essay you were able to write 3 with ease, try for 4.


Rough Draft (hand written) Due: January 12

Turn in your graphic organizer with your rough draft

Final Draft (typed) Due: January 30



Explanatory: The writer explains, describes, and informs the reader about a topic using facts, details, and examples in a clear and concise way. **Your 3 paragraph essay will teach me about something that you are an expert in. You can form your essay in the following ways:**

- Compare and contrast
 - Definition
 - Classification
 - Cause and Effect
 - How-to Problem and solution
- *** This essay may include subtopics
- 

Topic Ideas

1. What animal interests you? What does it eat? What type of environment does it need to survive in? What are funny characteristics about this animal? What is the behavior of this animal?
2. What is your favorite holiday? What do you eat? Who are you with? Do you exchange gifts or have certain traditions you have?
3. What is your favorite Sport? Write about that sport. Include details about how the game is played, and what is the history of the sport.
4. Do you have a different idea?

Send me a webmail to approve this topic

Explanatory Essay Format

Introduction

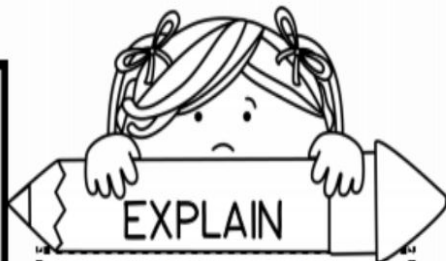
- hooks the reader
- includes a topic sentence
- introduces 2-3 supporting details

Body

- includes 2 or more developed paragraphs
- transition words and phrases move the writing
- each paragraph includes a topic sentence and 2-4 supporting details
- each paragraph includes a concluding statement

Conclusion

- brings closure to the essay
- restates the topic sentence
- restates the 2-3 supporting details



How to Develop a Body Paragraph

- make your point
- support your point with evidence and examples
- explain how your evidence supports your point
- end with a closing sentence

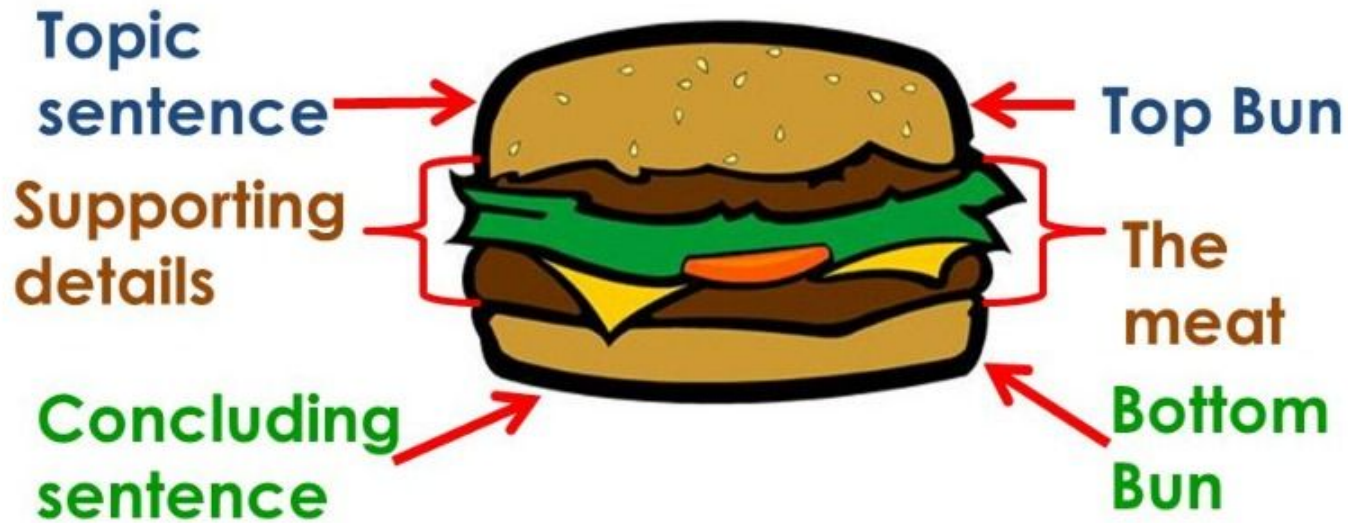


Hook Your Reader

- start with a question
- start with onomatopoeia
- start with a quote
- start with dialogue—people talking
- start with statistics
- create an interesting picture with words
- start with action
- surprise your reader with an interesting fact or statement
- begin with a definition

Paragraph Sandwich

Think of a paragraph as a sandwich. It has three parts.



Writing Requirements

Rough Draft- 3-5 paragraphs, each is paragraph a minimum of 5 sentences long, handwritten, and includes a graphic organizer. Students will need to cite their sources if they used any.

Why and How to Cite Sources

*If additional resources were used.

We are new to this idea of citing sources. Please make resource page in list form with sources used at the end of your essay. I am not looking for perfection here, I am looking for effort.

How to use a graphic organizer

Final Draft- Typed, includes corrections from rough draft, and resource page.

QUALITY vs. QUANTITY

Grading Rubric

Name _____ Date _____

Explanatory Text Portfolio Rubric

Directions: Use the rubric below as a guide for writing and revising your explanatory text.

Criteria (Weight)	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)
Introduction	The introduction clearly introduces the topic and creatively draws the reader's attention, letting them know what to expect.	The introduction introduces the topic and draws the reader's attention, letting them know what to expect.	The introduction hints at the topic and lets the reader know some of what to expect.	The introduction does not introduce the topic, interest readers, or let the reader know what to expect.
Organization of Ideas	The ideas are well organized. The ideas are connected with linking words and phrases.	The ideas are organized. The ideas are mostly connected with linking words and phrases.	Some of the information does not appear in the appropriate section. Few linking words and phrases connect the ideas.	Few ideas are included, and the organization is unclear. Few to no linking words and phrases are used.
Ideas, Facts, Definitions, Conclusion	Relevant ideas are provided throughout. Relevant facts and definitions support the ideas. The conclusion restates and wraps up the ideas and leaves the reader with a clear final thought.	Ideas are provided throughout. Facts and definitions support the ideas. The conclusion restates and wraps up the ideas and leaves the reader with a final thought.	Some ideas are provided. Some facts and definitions support the ideas. The conclusion restates and wraps up some of the ideas or gives an unclear final thought.	Little to no relevant ideas are given. Few or no facts or definitions support the ideas. The conclusion does not restate or wrap up the ideas or give a final thought.

Name _____ Date _____

Criteria (Weight)	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)
Grammar, Punctuation, Capitalization, and Spelling	Grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling are correct.	Grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling are mostly correct.	There are a number of errors in grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	There are extensive errors in grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. The errors make the writing hard to understand.
Publishing and Presenting	A title, subheadings, title page, and visual elements provide appropriate support. Writing is skillfully published in a format that is clear and understandable to readers. The writer presents their published work in an engaging and	A title, subheadings, title page, and at least one visual element provide adequate support. Writing is published in a format that is mostly clear and understandable to readers. The writer presents their published work in an informative manner.	Writing is missing at least one formatting element. Any visual element included does not fully support ideas. Writing is published in a format that is sometimes unclear and hard for readers to understand. The writer's presentation is at times unsure or	Most formatting elements are missing. No visual element has been added. Writing is published in a format that is unclear and hard to understand. The writer does not complete their presentation or does so in a way that is difficult to interpret.

Name _____ Date _____

	informative manner.	hard to understand.		
--	-------------------------------	------------------------	--	--

0 points: No evidence of ability to demonstrate targeted skill.

Total points: /20

Comments