

EXPOSITORY WRITING



DEFINITION

**EXPOSITORY WRITING INFORMS, EXPLAINS,
CLARIFIES, OR DEFINES.**

**THE WRITING TEACHES, REVEALS, INFORMS, OR
AMPLIFIES THE READER'S UNDERSTANDING
THROUGH A CAREFULLY CRAFTED MIX OF KEY
POINTS AND CRITICAL SUPPORT.**

FORMS OF EXPOSITORY ESSAYS

- **COMPARE AND CONTRAST ESSAYS:** PROVIDE DETAILS ABOUT SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO OR MORE ASPECTS OF A TOPIC.
- **PROBLEM- SOLUTION ESSAYS:** IDENTIFY A PROBLEM AND EXPLAIN ONE OR MORE WAYS TO SOLVE IT.
- **PERSUASION ESSAYS:** TO CONVINCE READERS TO AGREE WITH THE WRITER'S OPINION.
- **CAUSE- AND -EFFECT ESSAYS:** TRACE THE RESULTS OF AN EVENT OR THE REASONS AN EVENT HAPPENED.

THREE PARTS

- **INTRODUCTION:** STATES THE THESIS/CONTROLLING IDEA OR INTRODUCTION OF THE PAPER.
- **BODY:** SHOWS SUPPORT, DETAILS, EXAMPLES
- **CONCLUSION:** WRAPS UP THOUGHTS AND IDEAS

ALL EXPOSITORY ESSAYS SHARE THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS:

- ALL ESSAYS HAVE A **SPECIFIC TOPIC** ABOUT WHICH THE ESSAY WRITTEN.
- AN EFFECTIVE **INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION.**
- CLEARLY STATED **LEAD** THAT INTRODUCES THE ISSUE AND CAPTURES READERS' ATTENTION.

CONT.'

- A **THESIS STATEMENT/CONTROLLING IDEA** THAT TELLS THE WRITER'S OPINION.
- CLEAR **LOGICAL ORGANIZATION** THAT SUPPORTS THE THESIS STATEMENT OR CONTROLLING IDEA.

CONT.'

- EFFECTIVE **TRANSITIONS** TO LINK DETAILS, IDEAS AND PARAGRAPHS.
- A **VARIETY OF SENTENCE STRUCTURES**.
- FACTS, QUOTATIONS, AND OTHER DETAILS TO **SUPPORT** THE EXPLANATIONS.

OTHER FORMS OF EXPOSITORY WRITING ARE:

- **CLASSIFICATION ESSAYS.**
- **PROS-CONS ESSAYS.**
- **NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES.**
- **ADVERTISEMENTS.**
- **REVIEWS.**
- **EDITORIALS.**

*****ALWAYS START WITH A PLAN*****

EXAMPLE:

MAKE BELIEVE THIS WAS THE WRITING PROMPT:

THINK OF AN INSECT YOU DISLIKE AND EXPLAIN WHY. MAKE SURE TO GIVE GOOD REASONS AND EXAMPLES TO SUPPORT YOUR CHOICE.

HERE IS THE EXPOSITORY WRITING PLAN...



ALWAYS START WITH A PLAN

1. CHOOSE ONE SUBJECT: *MOSQUITOES*

2. LIST THREE REASONS.

A. ANNOYING WHEN ONE IS OUTSIDE

B. THEIR BITES ITCH

C. THEY CARRY DISEASES LIKE THE WEST NILE VIRUS

3. EACH REASON GETS AN EXPLANATION.

4. EXAMPLES FOLLOW EACH REASON.

5. USE THE SUBJECT AND REASONS TO CONSTRUCT YOUR INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION.

EXAMPLE OF AN EXPOSITORY PARAGRAPH:

MOSQUITOES ARE INSECTS THAT ARE DISLIKED BY MANY BECAUSE THEY ARE ANNOYING WHEN ONE IS OUTSIDE, THEIR BITES ITCH AND THEY CARRY DISEASES LIKE THE WEST NILE VIRUS .

ONE REASON MOSQUITOES ARE DISLIKED IS BECAUSE THEY ARE SO ANNOYING WHILE PEOPLE ARE OUTSIDE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHENEVER FAMILIES HAVE COOKOUTS, THEY WANT TO SWARM ALL AROUND THE FOOD. ALSO, WHEN YOU ARE OUT FISHING, YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO WEAR BUG SPRAY. THE BUG SPRAY ALWAYS STINKS TO HIGH HEAVEN! THEN, IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO USE BUG SPRAY, THE ONLY OTHER WAY TO GET THEM TO LEAVE YOU ALONE IS TO WEAR LONG SLEEVES. YET, WEARING LONG SLEEVES IS A HORRENDOUS IDEA BECAUSE IT IS HOT OUTSIDE. NOTHING RUINS YOUR DAY LIKE BLOODSUCKING MOSQUITOES.

INTRODUCTION:

- LEAD/HOOK
- INTRODUCE THE ISSUE
- THESIS STATEMENT/CONTROLLING IDEA
- STATE YOUR POSITION
- OPINION

BODY:

- EACH PARAGRAPH HAS EVIDENCE AND DETAILS SUPPORTING YOUR OPINION
- IN EACH PARAGRAPH STATE ONE OF YOUR SUPPORTING PIECES OF EVIDENCE
- GIVE EXAMPLES
- WRITE A SENTENCE AT THE END THAT WRAPS UP THE MAIN IDEA IN THAT PARAGRAPH

CONCLUSION:

- CLOSURE
- RESTATE YOUR THESIS STATEMENT USING DIFFERENT WORDS
- SUMMARIZE REASON AND/OR EVIDENCE
- WRITE A CLOSING SENTENCE.

WHAT EXPOSITORY WRITING DOES...

TELLS THE READER SOMETHING THEY DON'T KNOW, OR SOMETHING IMPORTANT OR SOMETHING ILLUMINATING.

HELPS THE READER RELATE THE INFORMATION.

ENGAGES READER(S) BY USING INTERESTING DETAILS.

Places the THESIS/CONTROLLING IDEA EARLY IN THE PAPER, A.K.A. THE INTRODUCTION.

ADDS TO THE READER'S KNOWLEDGE BY GIVING SOME "INSIDE" INFORMATION.

PRESENTS THE EXPLANATION IN AN APT, CLEAR AND LIVELY WAY.

EMPHASIZE THE THESIS/CONTROLLING IDEA (MAKE SURE THE FACTS AND EXAMPLES SUPPORT THE THESIS).

RENDERS A COHERENT, COHESIVE DELIVERY SYSTEM (ORGANIZATION/PROGRESSION OF IDEAS) OF WHAT IS PROMISED ON THE THESIS/CONTROLLING IDEA.