

EXPOSITORY WRITING

EXPLAINING A PROCESS

6th grade English

Nov 10-14

Objectives

- Understand the goal of expository writing.
- Understanding the content and form of expository writing.
- Plan, Draft, Revise, Edit, and Publish a How-To Essay.

The Expository Six

- Informative- Inform: The author informs, reports, explains.
- Informative- Inform and Tell Why: The author informs, reports, explains and tells why.
- Procedural- How to = Product: The author lists steps in numerical or chronological order.
- Masked- Ways to = Goal: The author gives ways of doing something abstract. The ways do not have to be given in any specific order.
- Classificatory- Classify: The author explains two sides of one item.
- Classificatory-Compare & Contrast: The author explains how two items are alike and different.

The Expository Six Examples

- Informative- Inform: Explain all about your favorite sport.
- Informative-Inform & Tell Why: Tell about a sport and explain why it is popular.
- Procedural- How to = Product: Tell a friend how to hit a baseball.
- Masked- Ways to= Goal: Explain to a friend how to have good sportsmanship.
- Classificatory- Classify: Write about the good and bad sides of playing a team sport.
- Classificatory- Compare & Contrast: Compare and contrast volleyball to softball.

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- How do you make spaghetti?
- How do you find the secret passage to the next level of your favorite video game?
- How do you skateboard or snowboard?
- The answers to questions like these may involve several steps. When you explain how to do or make something in an essay, you are doing expository writing.
- In this chapter, you will write an expository essay. Your how-to essay should tell readers exactly what materials they will need to what steps they should follow. You will do your best writing if you choose a topic you care about—something you do well or enjoy doing.

What is a How-To essay?

- A How-To essay explains how to do or make something. It usually includes:
 - The materials needed
 - The specific steps in the process
 - An explanation of the steps
 - An interested, knowledgeable voice

How-To Writing is Everywhere!!

- Examples:
- The rules on the board
- The assembly instructions of toy
- The shopping cart of a Web site
- The manual that comes with a TV remote
- The credit-card scanner at a gas station
- This very chapter (how to write a How-To)

Writing Guidelines

- Subject: Something you know how to do or make.
- Purpose: to explain how to do or make something.
- Form: How-To Essay
- Audience: Classmates

Traits of Expository Writing

- These Four traits relate to the development of the content and the form of expository writing. It provides a focus during prewriting, drafting, and revising.
- Focus and Coherence
- Organization
- Development of Ideas
- Voice

What does the word *mechanics* mean in this context???

- In composition, the conventions governing the technical aspects of writing, including, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and abbreviations.

Understanding Your Goal

- Your goal in the chapter is to write a well-organized, interesting essay that explains how to do or make something. The traits listed in the chart below will help you plan and write your how-to essay. The scoring rubric on page 48-49 will also help you. Refer to it often to improve your writing.

Traits of Expository Writing

□ Focus and Coherence:

- Make sure your essay has a clear statement of the controlling idea and clearly presents all the steps in the how-to process you have selected.

□ Organization:

- Write an engaging introduction, a middle that informs and guides the reader, and an effective conclusion.

□ Development of Ideas

- Use facts, details, and examples that support your ideas to help readers understand key ideas to each step.

□ Voice:

- Use an informative, confident voice that fits the audience.

□ Conventions:

- Check your essay for correct grammar, mechanics (punctuation and capitalization), and spelling.

Expository Essay

- In the following expository essay, Lamar explains how to give a dog a bath-step-by-step.

How to Give A Dog a Bath

- If you or any of your friends have a dog, you know how much fun a pet can be. You also know that a dog can be a lot of work, especially if he is very active. It doesn't take long for a high-energy dog to look a mess and smell even worse. When that happens, it's time to gather up the dog shampoo and conditioner and freshen up your dog. If you follow these steps, bathing your dog can be easy and enjoyable.
- To begin, get the bath ready and gather what you need. Use a nylon collar and leash (leather gets ruined by water) to control your dog during the bath. Your dog also needs something to stand on so he won't slip. A bath mat or towel will make him feel secure. Make sure the water is warm. Water that is too hot can burn a dog's skin. Cold water especially from the outside hose may scare your dog and send him running. Next, you'll need a way to get water all over your dog. A shower hose is the easiest method, but a plastic bucket can work well, too. You'll also need a special dog shampoo and conditioner because human shampoo is too strong for dogs. Of course, you'll need some big towels for the end of the bath.
- To continue, begin bathing your dog. Get your dog nice and wet. Then use enough shampoo to make a foamy lather on his coat. Talk to your dog all the time to help him relax.

Expository Essay

- Focus and Coherence
- The writer chooses an interesting topic to which many people can relate.
- Organization
- The process is described clearly from beginning to end.
- Clear transitions are used (to begin, to continue, To finish)
- Development of Ideas
- The writer tells how to give a dog a bath.
- The essay's details are memorable.
- Voice
- The writer sounds knowledgeable and confident.

