

THE EXPOSITORY WORKSHOP

An *expository* essay attempts to explain the subject to the audience. This may be accomplished by: *“Remember the exposition is the first part of the story-line triangle” This is where you “explain” the characters and setting.*

1. explaining a process
2. comparing or contrasting two items
3. identifying a cause-effect relationship
4. explaining with examples

Below is a website that gives you examples of different types of expository writing. Please read the examples, and answer the questions.

Expository writing examples <http://library.thinkquest.org/10888/expos.html>

Process Essay Questions (first example)

1. In the “process” essay what type of compositional risk does the author use to begin the story?
2. What does the author explain or give in the second paragraph?
3. What transition words are used in the next three paragraphs?
4. How does the author conclude the essay? The author is actually doing something that I tell you never to do. What rule is the author breaking in the concluding paragraph

Comparison and Contrast Essay (second example)

1. In this comparison and contrast essay notice the author is spending a certain amount of time discussing both friends. Is the time spent on each friend equal and fair or unequal and unfair? Why do you think this is an important and effective strategy?
2. What is the big difference between both friends? What is similar about both friends? Notice that the author establishes these themes without coming right out with it in the first paragraphs. Remember it is important to make your reader think.
3. There are many appositives used in this essay. Write down a few.

Explaining with examples Essay (third example)

1. In this next example essay, do you think the title of the story is catchy, clever and embodies the true essence of the essay? Think of a catchy title for this essay and rename it.
2. The author of this essay clearly states her thesis statement in her first paragraph. Remember, a thesis is like a trident, three-pronged. What is the thesis statement of “Some People?”
3. Dialogue is used throughout this essay. Do you think it is an effective strategy, or could this have been handled differently? Remember, when you overuse anything it becomes boring and predictable.
4. The last paragraph was very short, abrupt and unemotional. Recreate the end of this story while using imagery to describe the final emotional picture the author leaves us with.

Cause and Effect Essay (fourth example)

1. This last example essay is filled with research, which is cited with sources. What is the cause and effects of this essay?
2. Whenever you do a cause and effect essay, you are expected to use and cite sources. This is the truest form of an expository essay. You cannot make up information. Pick a subject that you are familiar with and create a good topic sentence that would introduce the information you chose.
 - a. Bad grades/ no studying
 - b. Grounded/ bad behavior
 - c. No allowance/ chores never completed

NOW CHOOSE A PROMPT THAT WORKS FOR YOU

Use the example essay to help you

This will be scored on the NJASK rubric

Remember how to get a 6!

Yes! You need to create 5-paragraphs

1. EXPLAINING A PROCESS (remember transitional cookies!)

REMEMBER YOU JUST CAN'T "UNLOAD" INFORMATION. YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT INTERESTING

-EXPLAIN:

- how to bake a cake
- how to ride a bike
- catch a wave
- make friends
- Get to the beach from North Cape May

2. COMPARE AND CONTRAST ESSAY

Remember to "share" the information

What is the difference between?

- indoor hockey/ outdoor hockey (which is better)
- Dominoes pizza/ Ellios (supermarket frozen) pizza (which is better)
- basketball/ football (which is better)
- running/ skipping (which is safer)

3. Explaining with examples Essay

Remember to state a thesis

-Explain:

- Why texting is easier than communicating orally
- Why why people get mad when they are ignored
- Why going to the boardwalk is fun