



“**W**hat is the world’s tallest mountain?”

“What is the deepest ocean?”

The world is full of questions. Writing that provides answers to these questions is called expository writing. Expository writing explains or informs.

In this section, you’ll learn how to write an expository paragraph, an expository essay, and a few other forms. The world is full of questions, and here’s your chance to provide some answers!



Literature Connections: For an example of an expository essay, read *Electromagnets and You* by Emma Rose.



Writing an Expository Paragraph

Elijah had a bike. It was one of the most important things in his life. How could he explain to his family and friends what makes his bike great for him? He wrote an expository paragraph.

Soon you will write your own expository paragraph. In it, you'll explain why something is important to you.

Paragraph Parts

- 1** The **topic sentence** tells what the paragraph explains.
- 2** The **body sentences** add details that help explain the topic sentence.
- 3** The **closing sentence** completes the explanation.



Expository Paragraph

The Great Thing About My Bike

1

The great thing about my bike is that it's fast. That's important to

2

me because I love to go fast. My bike has six speeds, but it is faster than most six-speed bikes. That's because my bike has bigger wheels. In gear six, I

3

can even go faster than my fifth-grade neighbor on his bike. So if you ask what's the great thing about my bike, I'll answer, "Let's race!"

After you read . . .

- **Ideas** (1) What details help explain the topic?
- **Organization** (2) What are the three parts of this paragraph?
- **Word Choice** (3) What three words or phrases show the writer's excitement about the topic?



Prewriting Selecting a Topic

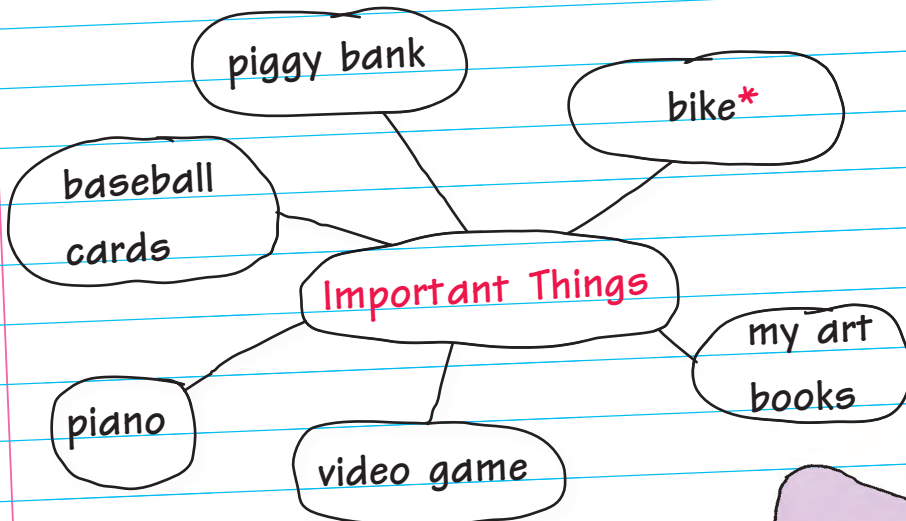
An ideas cluster can help you think of the important things in your life. Elijah made the cluster below. He focused on objects that he could write a paragraph about.



Create an ideas cluster.

1. Write "Important Things" in the middle of your paper.
2. Around it, write the names of objects you like. Connect them.
3. Put a star (*) next to the idea you want to write about.

Ideas Cluster



Writing Creating Your First Draft

As you write your paragraph, remember that each part has a special job to do.


- Your **topic sentence** names the topic and tells what's great about it.
- Each **body sentence** explains your topic sentence by answering the question *why?* or *how?*
- Your **closing sentence** completes your explanation.

Write

Develop your paragraph.

1. Write your topic sentence using this form:
“The great thing about _____ is _____.”
2. Write sentences that answer *why?* or *how?* about the topic sentence.
3. Write a closing sentence that completes your explanation.

First Draft



The great thing about



Revising Improving Your Paragraph

When you revise your paragraph, make sure your body sentences explain your topic sentence.



Revise

Check your body sentences.

1. Underline your topic sentence.
2. Check each body sentence to make sure it answers *why?* or *how?* about your topic sentence.
3. Cross out any sentence that does not explain the topic.
4. If you need to, add one or two sentences to explain your topic better.

Practice

Read the following paragraph. Which body sentence doesn't answer the question *why?* or *how?* about the topic sentence? Replace that sentence with one of your own that answers *why?* or *how?* about the topic.

I like to go to the city swimming pool on a hot day. I don't want to waste any time getting into the water. I jump into the deep end of the pool. The cool water makes me gasp. Some of my friends like to fish. I enjoy the high slide because I can make a big splash!

Editing Checking for Conventions

When you edit your paragraph, make sure you have included the right punctuation after each sentence.

- Most sentences end with a period.
- Questions end with a question mark.
- Exciting sentences end with an exclamation point.



Edit

Check your work.

1. Did I indent the first line of the paragraph?
2. Did I begin each sentence with a capital letter?
3. Did I end each sentence with the correct punctuation mark?
4. Have I checked my spelling?
5. Have I used the right words, like *there*, *their*, and *they're*?

A cartoon illustration of a boy with orange hair, wearing a green helmet and a blue shirt. He is holding a large green pencil and looking towards the left. The pencil is positioned horizontally across the page, with its tip pointing towards the left.

Grammar Practice

Tell what the correct end punctuation mark would be for each sentence below.

1. How much money do you think I have in my piggy bank__
2. I wish I had a million dollars__
3. I will count my money tonight when I get home__



Writing an Expository Essay

What is important to you? Everyone has a different answer. For a student named Gabrielle, having friends stay overnight for her birthday was very important.

In this chapter, you'll write about something important to you. First, you'll need to show what is important to you, and then you'll tell the reader why it's important.



Understanding Your Goal

Your goal in this chapter is to write an essay that explains something that is important to you. The six traits below and the expository revising lessons (pages 146–156) will help you reach your writing goal.

Your goal is to . . .

**Ideas**

Choose an interesting topic and explain it with details.

**Organization**

Put the parts of your essay in the right order.

**Voice**

Show your interest and excitement.

**Word Choice**

Use specific nouns to help make your ideas clear.

**Sentence Fluency**

Write complete sentences that are easy to read.

**Conventions**

Check your punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and grammar.



Expository Essay

An expository essay gives information to the reader. This essay explains why Aidan's backpack is important to him.

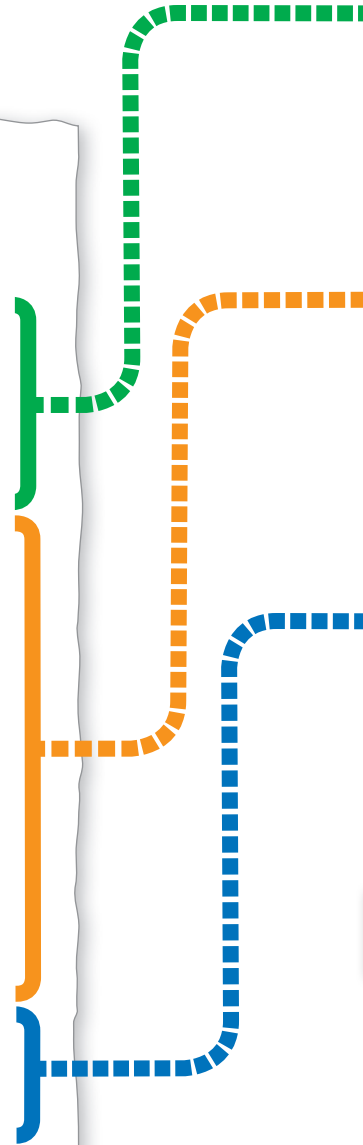
The Home on My Back

Some kids can't stand their backpacks. A backpack makes them think of books and homework. My backpack is different. It is important to me because it holds everything I need.

I love books, and my backpack keeps them with me. I don't mean just schoolbooks. I mean my reading books, too. Right now, I'm reading *Ribsy* by Beverly Cleary. Next, I'll read *Henry Huggins*.

Another reason my backpack is important is that it holds my lunch box. Dad always packs a good lunch for me, with a snack. Sometimes he even puts a note in. That way, my dad visits me in the middle of the day! Thanks to my backpack, that's possible.

Sometimes my backpack gets heavy to carry, but I don't mind. It has everything I need. It's like a home I carry on my back.



Parts of an Expository Essay

An expository essay has three parts.

Beginning

The **beginning paragraph** names the topic and gives the focus sentence.

Beginning

Middle

Ending

Middle

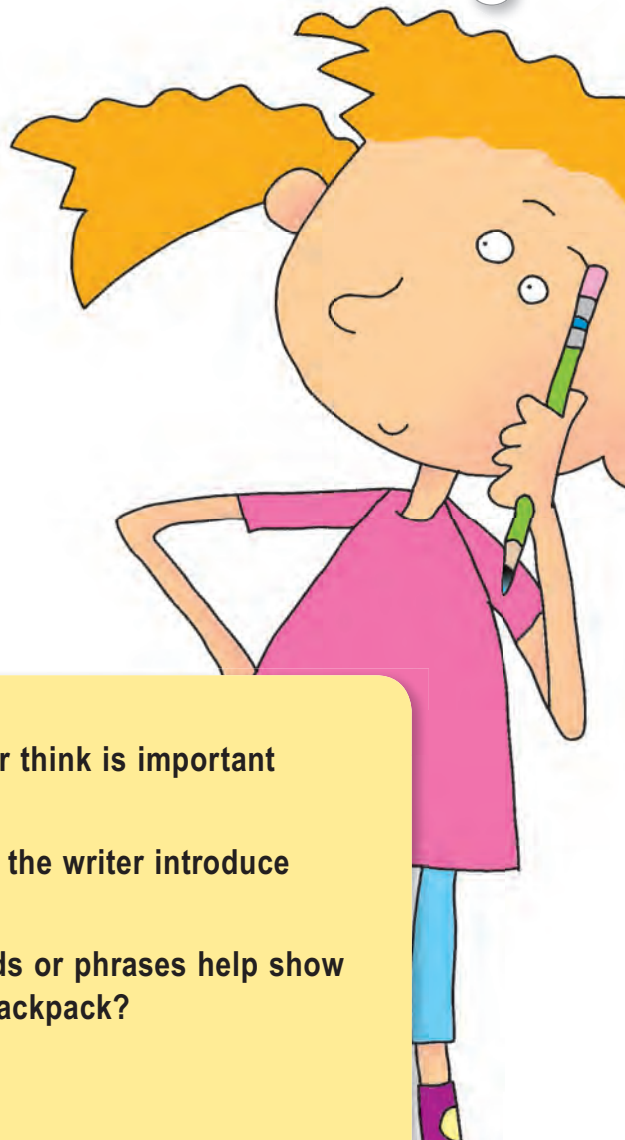
Each **middle paragraph** starts with a topic sentence. Details in the other sentences explain the topic sentence.

Ending

The **ending paragraph** tells how the writer feels about the topic.

After you read . . .

- **Ideas** (1) What does the writer think is important about his backpack?
- **Organization** (2) How does the writer introduce his topic?
- **Word Choice** (3) What words or phrases help show the writer's feelings about his backpack?





Prewriting Selecting a Topic

Your essay should be about something that means a lot to you. Gabrielle used a T-chart to think about things that were important to her.



Make a T-chart.

1. Write "Important Things" at the top of your paper.
2. Write "At Home" and "At School" underneath.
3. List important things under each heading.
4. Put a star (*) next to the thing you want to write about.

T-Chart

Important Things	
At Home	At School
family	the tetherball court
my bedroom	recess
overnights*	art class
my pastels set	



Thinking About the Topic

- (1) *What is most important about your topic?*
- (2) *Why is that important?*
- (3) *How is that important?*

Gabrielle answered these questions about her topic. Her first answer is her **focus sentence**. It tells *what* her essay will be about. The other two answers are the **topic sentences** for the body paragraphs. They will tell *why* and *how* about her topic.



Answer these three questions.

1. Write "What's most important?"
Answer this question by writing your focus sentence.
2. Write "Why?"
Answer this question by writing your first topic sentence.
3. Write "How?"
Answer this question by writing your second topic sentence.

Topic Questions

1. What's most important?

An overnight is a special kind of party.

2. Why?

Friends can be together all night at an overnight.

3. How?

An overnight is full of fun activities.



Writing Beginning Your Essay

Your beginning paragraph introduces the topic. Here are three possible ways to introduce your topic.

Beginning

Middle

Ending

Ask

α question.

What could be better than
an overnight with friends?

OR

Be creative

and tell α
little story.

At midnight, something tapped
on the window, and I . . .

OR

Connect

with
readers.

When my sister Celia had an
overnight, I listened through
the wall to the spooky stories
she told.

Write

Create your beginning paragraph.

1. Use one of the three ways above to introduce your topic.
2. Include your focus sentence. (See the bottom of page 137.)

Gabrielle's Beginning Paragraph

Gabrielle's beginning had some great ideas, and some errors. That's all right for a first draft.

Beginning

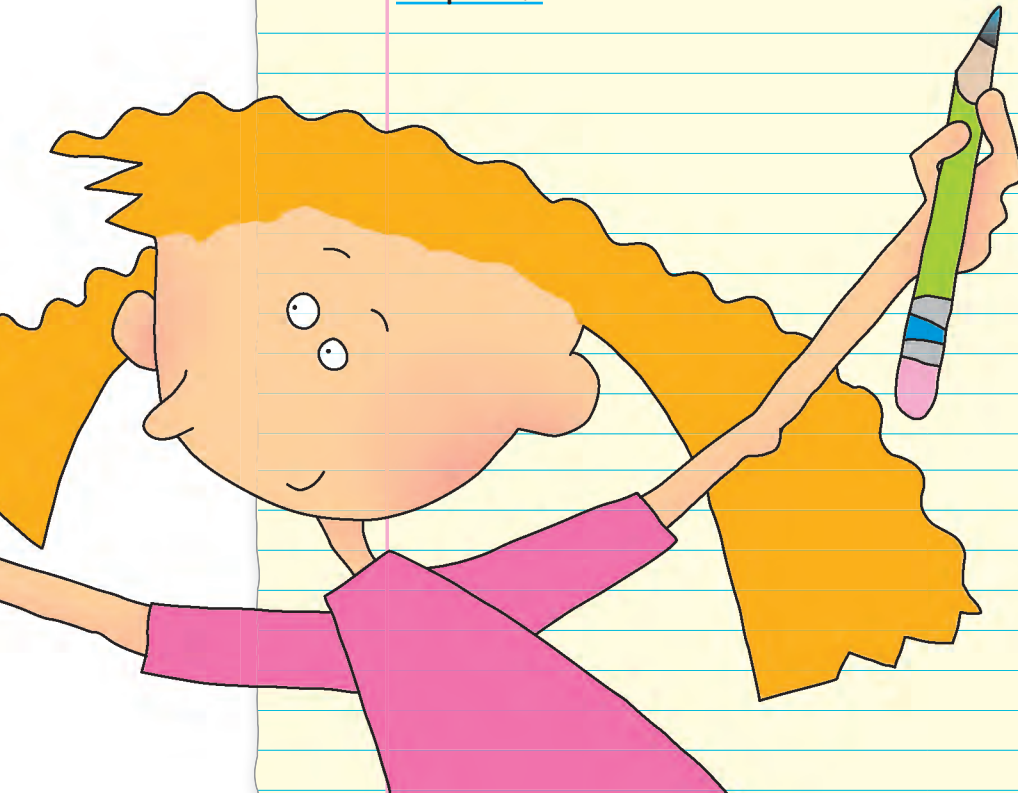
.....
The topic is introduced.

My sister had an overnight. I listened
threw the wall to her spooky stories

about voices sounds and shadows. The next

The focus sentence is added. (underlined)

day Mom asked me if I wanted to have my
own overnight. An overnight is a special kind
of party.





Writing Developing the Middle

The middle part of your essay explains your focus sentence. Your middle should include two or more paragraphs.

Beginning

Middle

Ending

- One paragraph answers **why** about your focus.
- Another paragraph answers **how** about your focus.

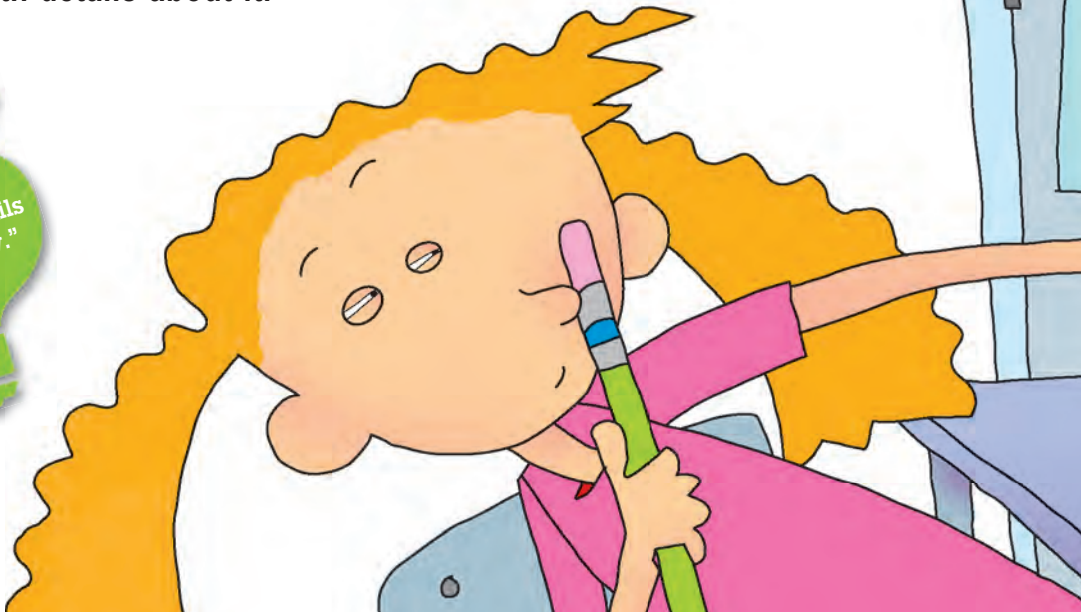
Each middle paragraph starts with a **topic sentence**. More sentences follow. Those sentences contain **details** to explain the topic sentence.



Write Draft two middle paragraphs.

1. Start with your first topic sentence. (See the bottom of page 137.) Add more sentences with details about it.
2. Write your second topic sentence. (See the bottom of page 137.) Add more sentences with details about it.

Ideas
Gather details
that "show."



Gabrielle's Middle Paragraphs

Gabrielle explained *why* and *how* about her focus sentence. Her writing has a few errors, as all first drafts do.

an overnight of my own. An overnight is a special kind of party.

Middle

A topic sentence begins the first paragraph.

Freinds can be together all night at an overnight. That's more fun than just seeing each other at school. It's great to stay up late with good freinds.

Details are added.

A topic sentence begins the second paragraph.

Another great thing about an overnight is that it is full of fun activities.

Details are added.

Nighttime is perfect for telling spooky stories what could be better than a movie marathon, eating, board games, and sleeping on the floor in the living room.



Writing Ending Your Essay

Your ending paragraph completes your explanation. Here are three possible ways to end your^o essay.

Beginning

Middle

▶ Ending

Return

to your beginning idea.

Now Celia will have to listen to my spooky stories because my very first overnight will be next weekend.

OR

Share

something funny.

I'm so excited about my overnight, I can't sleep.

OR

Talk

with your reader.

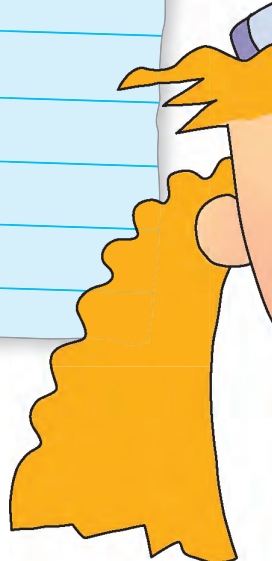
If you're like me, you've been dreaming about having an overnight.

Write



Create your ending.

1. Use one of the three ways above to write an ending for your essay.
2. Try a second way and choose the one you like best.



Gabrielle's Ending Paragraph

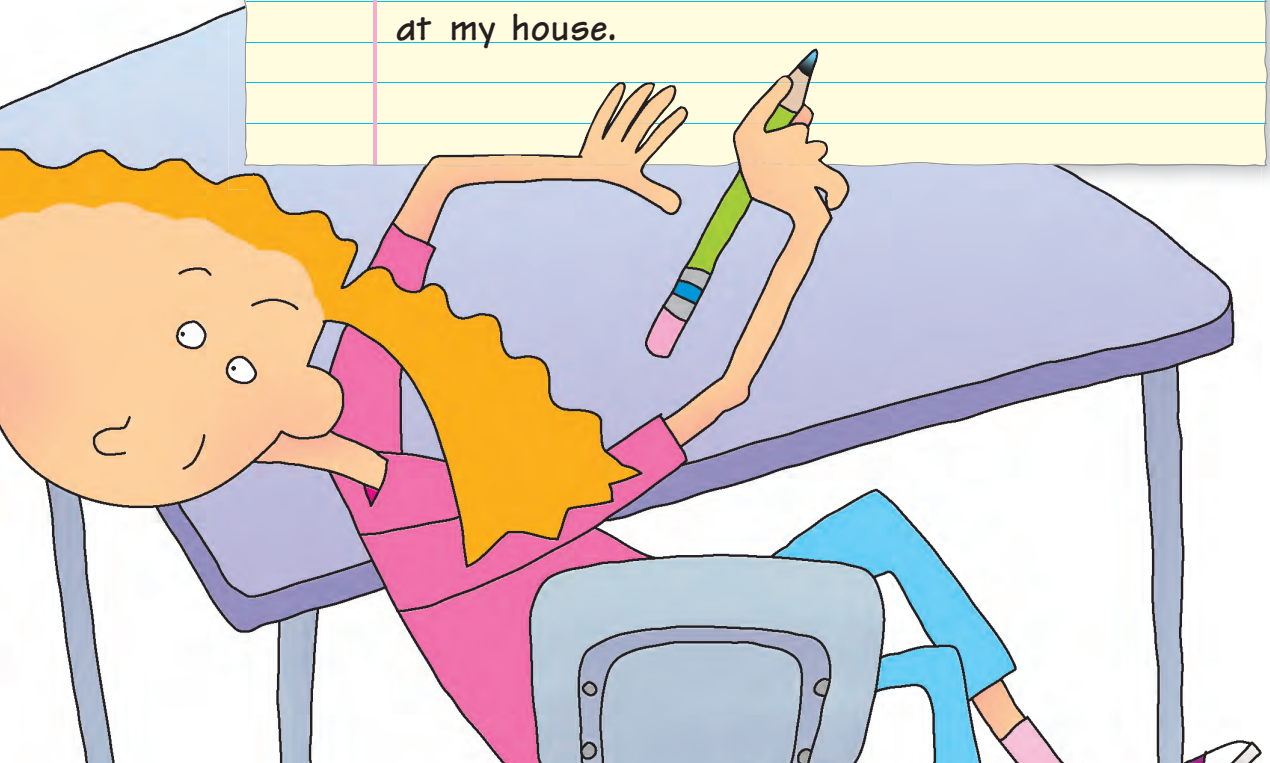
Gabrielle created a strong ending by going back to the beginning of her essay. Her first ending contains some errors.

Ending

The ending returns to the beginning idea.

movie eating, board games, and sleeping on the floor in the living room.

Now Celia will have to listen to my spooky stories because my overnight will be next weekend. My two favorite cousins are coming to visit. They usually stay with my aunt and uncle, but this time they will stay at my house.





Revising Improving Your Essay

When you finish your first draft, you are ready to make changes to improve your writing. Begin the revising part of the writing process by reading your essay to yourself.

Then read your essay out loud to a partner. You may ask your partner the following questions that are based on your writing goals (see page 133).



Ideas

- Did I choose an interesting topic?
- Did I explain my topic with details?



Organization

Organization

- Did I put the parts of my essay in order?



Voice

- Does my writing show my interest and excitement?



Word Choice

Word Choice

- Did I use specific nouns to make my ideas clear?



Sentence Fluency

Sentence Fluency

- Did I write complete sentences?
- Is my writing easy to read?

Getting a Partner's Response

A partner can help you find ways to improve your writing. Here is a partner's response to Gabrielle's essay on pages 139–143.

Response Sheet

Writer: Gabrielle Responder: Dario

Title: All Right, an Overnight!

What I like:

Everybody likes overnights!

The part about Celia was funny.

Questions I have:

What do you eat?

Where do your cousins live?



Revising for



Strong writing “shows” readers what you mean rather than just “telling” them.

Q. How can I “show” instead of “tell”?

Here are three ways you can *show* instead of *tell*.

1 Use sensory details: Include things that can be seen, heard, smelled, tasted, or touched.

Telling Thanksgiving dinner is always good.

Showing Thanksgiving dinner means juicy turkey, hot rolls, and steaming stuffing.

2 Use specific details: Give exact information.

Telling I love going to baseball games.

Showing I love sitting in the bleachers, cheering for our team, and eating hot dogs.

3 Use dialogue: Let people speak for themselves.

Telling Mom said she was proud of me.

Showing Mom said, “No one works harder than you do.”

Practice

Rewrite the telling sentence below. Use one of the three showing strategies above.

My pet is important to me.

Revising in Action

Here are some of the changes Gabrielle made to improve the ideas in the beginning paragraph of her first draft. She changed one telling sentence and put the idea into dialogue.

My sister had an overnight. I listened threw
the wall to her spooky stories about voices
sounds and shadows. The next day Mom asked
“Would you like your
me if I wanted to have my own overnight. An
overnight is a special kind of party. Friends
can be together all night at an overnight.



Revise

Check your ideas.

Find at least one place in your writing to “show” instead of “tell” using details or dialogue.

- **Add** sensory and other specific details. Use a caret \wedge to show where you want to add words or punctuation.
- **Add** dialogue if it adds information.
- **Cut** words that tell instead of show. Use a delete mark e to show what you want to remove.



Revising for

Organization

Your writing is well organized if it has all the parts it needs and each part is in the right place.

Q. *How can I check my organization?*

You can check the organization of your essay by doing the following scavenger hunt.

Organization Scavenger Hunt

1. Add a ¶ beside each paragraph indent.
2. Make a * next to your focus sentence in your beginning paragraph.
3. Put a 😊 next to the topic sentence in each middle paragraph.

Practice

Where would you place the above symbols in the passage below?

My brother and I have a tree house in a huge oak tree in the pasture. On a hot day, a breeze flows up from the valley like a cool clear stream. A tree house is a great place to play, read a book, or just be alone. Our tree house has two floors. Boards hammered into the tree make a ladder to the first floor. Then a trapdoor leads to the second level. Dad used wooden braces to make the floors and side rails strong. Our tree house even has a roof. Being up in a tree is fun. We pretend to be sailing on a ship or looking down at the world from space. We have many adventures in our tree house.

Revising in Action

Gabrielle checked the organization of her first draft. She marked her focus sentence and paragraph indents. She needed to create one new paragraph.

¶ My sister had an overnight. I listened threw
the wall to her spooky stories about voices
sounds and shadows. The next day Mom asked
“Would you like your
me if I wanted to have my own overnight. An
overnight is a special kind of party. Friends can
be together all night at an overnight.



Check your organization.

Mark your own essay for the scavenger hunt on page 148. You may need to write a focus sentence, indent a paragraph, or add a topic sentence.



Revising for



Your writing voice is your own special way of expressing yourself. For an expository essay, your voice should sound interested.

Q. How can I write with an interested voice?

Your voice will sound interested if your sentences aren't silly or boring. Use the ideas below to check your voice.

Silly
(Tone it down.)

I'd like to jump over
the moon.

Interested.....
*I can see craters on the moon
when I look through my telescope.*

Boring
(Build it up.)

I like to look at the
moon at night.

Practice

Rewrite the boring sentence below so that you sound interested in the topic.

I have a red bicycle.

Revising in Action

Here is how Gabrielle changed her first paragraph to improve the voice in her first draft. She added interesting words to a sentence that sounded boring. She also added a sentence to show excitement.

¶ My sister had an overnight. I listened threw
 growly
 the wall to her spooky stories about voices
 screechy dark
 sounds and shadows. The next day Mom asked
 “Would you like your I can’t wait
 me if I wanted to have my own overnight.* An
 overnight is a special kind of party. Friends
 can be together all night at an overnight.



Revise

Check your writing voice.

1. Read your essay and underline any sentences that sound silly or boring.
2. Rewrite underlined sentences so that you sound more interested.
 - **Cut** words or sentences that sound silly or boring.
 - **Add** words that make your writing more interesting.



Revising for

Word Choice

In an expository essay, your goal is to explain something. Specific nouns can make your explanations clearer.

Q. How can I use specific nouns?

You can use specific nouns to replace general nouns. A specific noun names an exact person, place, thing, or idea.

**General
Nouns:**

car

brother

animal

tree

**Specific
Nouns:**



hot rod

Tyrone

manatee

weeping willow

Grammar Practice

Replace each underlined general noun with a specific noun.

1. Most of the time, we play games.
2. We stop playing long enough to eat food.
3. We also watch movies.
4. It is usually a movie about something.
5. On Saturday morning, we have to clean the room.

Revising in Action

Here is how Gabrielle changed her first paragraph to improve the word choice in her first draft. She added some specific nouns to make the words *sister* and *overnight* clearer.

Celia her friends sleep over at our house

¶ My ~~sister~~ had ~~an overnight~~. I listened threw
 ^ ^ growly
 the wall to her spooky stories about voices
 screechy dark
 ^ ^ sounds and shadows. The next day Mom asked
 "Would you like your I can't wait
 me if I wanted to have my own overnight." An
 ^ ^ ^ ^
 overnight is a special kind of party. Friends
 ¶ 😊
 can be together all night at an overnight.



Revise

Check your word choice.

1. Read your essay and underline all the nouns.
2. Replace any general nouns with specific nouns.
 - **Cut** any nouns that are general.
 - **Add** specific nouns to make your explanation clearer.



Revising for

Sentence Fluency

Your sentences won't flow smoothly if you have too many short, choppy sentences.

Q. How can I combine sentences?

You can combine two sentences with a comma and a conjunction.

- Combine two sentences by adding a comma and one of these conjunctions: *and*, *but*, *or*, *for*, *so*, or *yet*.

Two Short Sentences

The tree changes each season. It is always beautiful.

One Compound Sentence

The tree changes each season, *but* it is always beautiful.

Grammar Practice

Combine the following two sentences using a comma and a conjunction.

My granola is easy to make. It doesn't even need to be cooked.

Revising in Action

Here is how Gabrielle changed her first paragraph to improve the sentence fluency in her first draft. She combined the first two sentences.

Celia her friends sleep over at our house
 ¶ My sister had an overnight, I listened threw
 ^ ^ and
 ^ growly
 the wall to her spooky stories about voices
 ^
 screechy dark
 ^ sounds and shadows. The next day Mom asked
 ^ "Would you like your I can't wait
 ^ me if I wanted to have my own overnight. An
 ^ ^
 ^ ¶ 😊
 overnight is a special kind of party. Friends can
 be together all night at an overnight.



Revise

Check for smooth sentences.

1. Read your essay and look for places that you could combine two sentences.
2. Try to create at least one compound sentence.
 - **Add** a comma and a conjunction to combine two sentences.



Revising Using a Checklist



Check your revising.

Number your paper from 1 to 8. If you can answer “yes” to a question, put a check mark after that number. If not, continue to work on that part of your essay.

Ideas

- ___ 1. Have I used my sensory details to “show” instead of “tell”?
- ___ 2. Have I used enough specific details?

Organization

- ___ 3. Do I indent each new paragraph?
- ___ 4. Do I have a focus sentence in my beginning paragraph?
- ___ 5. Does each middle paragraph have a topic sentence?

Voice

- ___ 6. Have I used an interested voice?

Word Choice

- ___ 7. Have I used specific nouns that fit my topic?

Sentence Fluency

- ___ 8. Have I combined some short, choppy sentences?



Make a clean copy.

After revising your essay, make a clean copy for editing.

Editing for

Conventions

When you edit for conventions, you need to be sure you have used commas in a series.

Q. How do I use commas in a series?

When you have a series (a list) of three or more things, put commas between each one. A series can have single words or groups of words.

My town has a pool, a river, and a lake.

Grammar Practice

Rewrite each sentence below. Add commas between the three or more items in a series.

1. My town is fun in spring summer winter and fall.
2. I enjoy swimming fishing and boating.
3. I also ride my bike walk my dog and play football.
4. I live with my mom a brother a sister and a hamster.
5. My family enjoys working in the garden going to the park and playing board games together.



Editing Checking for Conventions

Check for capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar errors in your essay.

Conventions

Punctuation

- ___ 1. Did I use end punctuation after all my sentences?
- ___ 2. Did I correctly use commas in a series?

Capitalization

- ___ 3. Did I start all my sentences with capital letters?
- ___ 4. Did I capitalize all proper names in my essay?

Spelling

- ___ 5. Have I carefully checked my spelling?

Grammar

- ___ 6. Have I used the right words (*to, two, too; there, their, they're*)?

Grammar Practice

Find two errors in each sentence. Then rewrite the sentences correctly.

1. the best thing about overnights is the fun?
2. Kids sure don't git much rest
3. I cant wait too have my own overnight!
4. my cousins from miami will come on Friday.
5. We laughed and played bored games

Editing in Action

Here are some of the editing changes Gabrielle made to the first two paragraphs of her essay. She replaced a wrong word, added punctuation, and corrected misspelled words.

Gabrielle corrected a word.

When my sister Celia had her friends sleep through over at our house, and I listened threw the

She added commas in a series.

wall to her spooky stories about growly voices, screechy sounds, and dark shadows. The next

She added an apostrophe.

day Mom asked me, "Would you like to have your own overnight?" I can't wait. An overnight is a special kind of party.

She changed end punctuation.

Friends Freinds can be together all night at an

She corrected a misspelled word.

overnight. That's more exciting than just seeing each other in school or on weekends.

I love laughing and talking and staying up late with my friends freinds.

 Edit

Check for conventions in your essay.

1. Read your own essay and look for items in a series.
2. Put commas between the items.



Using a Rubric

The rubrics on these pages can help you rate your writing.



6 The topic, focus, and details are well developed.

5 The topic is clear and includes many interesting details.

4 The topic is clear. Most of the details tell about the topic.

Organization

6 Every part of the essay works perfectly.

5 The beginning, middle, and ending all work well.

4 Most parts of the essay are in order.

Voice

6 The voice sounds confident and well informed.

5 The voice sounds well informed.

4 The writer sounds informed in most parts.

Word Choice

6 Each word is precisely chosen.

5 Specific words explain the topic.

4 Most words in the essay explain the topic.

Sentence Fluency

6 All sentences are well crafted and varied.

5 Many sentences are well crafted and varied.

4 Most sentences have a variety of lengths and beginnings.

Conventions

6 The essay uses conventions well.

5 Most conventions are correct.

4 Meaning is clear, but some errors are present.



Literature Connections: For an example of an expository essay, read *Mayors* by Shannon Knudsen.

3 The topic needs to be clearer. More details are needed.

2 The topic is unclear, and the details do not fit.

1 The topic is unclear.

3 Some parts of the essay could be better organized.

2 All parts of the essay run together.

1 The organization is confusing.

3 The writer sounds informed in some parts.

2 The writer sounds unsure.

1 The writer sounds uninterested.

3 The essay needs more specific words.

2 General or missing words make this essay confusing.

1 Some words are used incorrectly.

3 Some sentences have varied lengths and beginnings.

2 Many sentences are choppy or incomplete.

1 Many sentences are incomplete and difficult to read.

3 Errors may confuse the reader.

2 Errors make the essay hard to read.

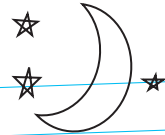
1 Help is needed to make corrections.



Publishing Sharing Your Essay

Finally, it's time to proofread your essay and make a neat copy to share. You can also illustrate your essay.

All Right, an Overnight!



When my sister Celia had her friends sleep over at our house, I listened through the wall to her spooky stories about growling voices, screechy sounds, and dark shadows. The next day Mom asked me, "Would you like to have your own overnight?" I can't wait! An overnight is a special kind of party.

Friends can be together all night at an overnight. That's more exciting than just seeing each other in school or on weekends. I love laughing and talking and staying up late with my friends.

An overnight also has fun activities. Nighttime is perfect for telling spooky stories. What could be better than watching movies, munching on popcorn, playing board games, and sleeping on the floor in the living room?

Now Celia will have to listen to my spooky stories because my very first overnight will be Friday night. My two favorite cousins Maria and Gina are coming to visit from Miami. They usually stay with my aunt and uncle, but this time they will stay at my house. I can't wait.

Publish

Make a final copy of your essay.

Reflecting on Your Writing

You're done! Take a moment to think about what you have learned. Here's what Gabrielle thought about her essay.

Thinking About Your Writing

Name: Gabrielle McGraff

Title: All Right, an Overnight!

1. The best part of my essay is . . .

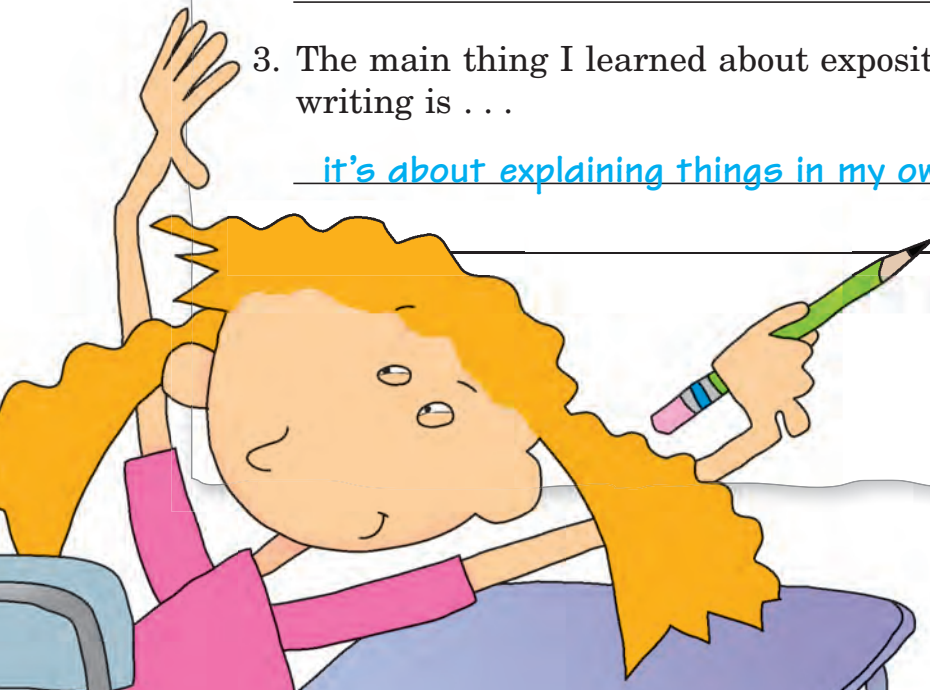
my topic. I can't wait for my first
overnight!

2. The part that still needs work is . . .

the middle. I need more details.

3. The main thing I learned about expository writing is . . .

it's about explaining things in my own words.



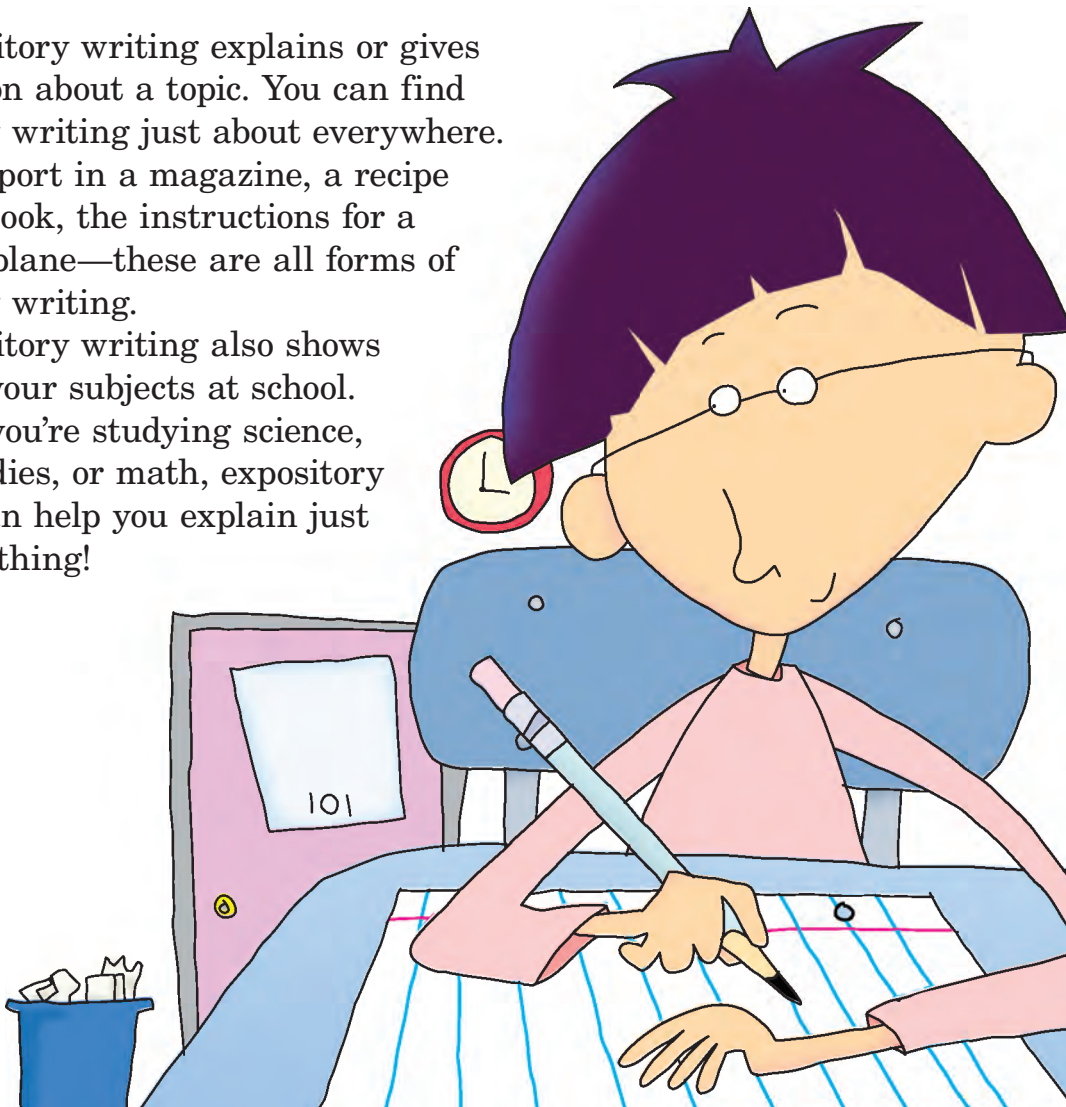


Expository Writing

Across the Curriculum

Expository writing explains or gives information about a topic. You can find expository writing just about everywhere. A news report in a magazine, a recipe in a cookbook, the instructions for a model airplane—these are all forms of expository writing.

Expository writing also shows up in all your subjects at school. Whether you're studying science, social studies, or math, expository writing can help you explain just about anything!



Social Studies:

News Report

News reports give readers information about an event. One day, Jeremy's class had a special visitor. Jeremy wrote the following report for his school newspaper.

Kids in China

Beginning

The beginning gives basic information.

On Tuesday, October 4, Mr. Goff visited our class. He is Karen's dad, and he just got back from a business trip to China. He has many pictures of busy cities and beautiful mountains. Mr. Goff came to our class to tell us what life is like in China.

Middle

The middle lists important details.

We learned that kids in China go to school six days a week! They write with 2,000 characters instead of 26 letters. Each character is a complete word. After school, kids play basketball and volleyball and ride bikes. Kids in China do the same kinds of things we do.

Ending

The ending gives a final thought.

Mr. Goff said a businessman from China would visit him soon. We will invite the man to our class. That way, he can tell kids in China about us!



Prewriting Selecting a Topic

News is about “new” events. To find a topic for his school news report, Jeremy listed important events from the last week or two.



Prewrite

List topic ideas.

1. Write important events from the past week or two.
2. Put a star (*) next to the event you want to write about.

Gathering Details

Next, Jeremy used the 5 W's questions to gather details.



Prewrite

Fill in the 5 W's about your event.

Ideas List

Events

We got a new jungle gym on the playground.

Mr. Goff visited and told us about China.*

We got a class hamster named Ziggy.

5 W's

Who?	What?	When?	Where?	Why?
Mr. Goff	class visitor	Tuesday, October 4	our classroom	to tell us about life in China

Writing Creating a First Draft

It's time to write your news story! Follow the steps below.



Create your first draft.

1. In the beginning paragraph, answer the 5 W's (page 166).
2. In the middle paragraph, include other interesting details.
3. In the ending paragraph, give a final thought.

Revising Improving Your Writing

Jeremy used some questions to help him revise.



Improve your news report.

Answer the following questions as you revise your report.

1. Have I included all my information and interesting details?
2. Do I sound excited about my topic?

Editing Checking Conventions

Jeremy used these questions to check his capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.



Check your work.

1. Did I start all my sentences with capital letters?
2. Did I end all my sentences with correct punctuation?
3. Have I checked for spelling errors?



Music: A Report

Boom-Whack-a-Boom

In 1994, Craig Ramsell was cutting up a cardboard gift wrap tube. He whacked his leg with the tube and liked the sound it made. A shorter piece made a different sound. That gave him the idea for Boomwhackers.

Red, orange, yellow—each brightly colored plastic tube makes the sound of a note on the musical scale when it is whacked against a hand, a leg, or anything hard. In schools, students use sets of Boomwhackers as rhythm instruments and music makers. Color-coded song books make playing music easy.

By 2007, Whacky Music, Inc., had sold 5 million sets of tuned percussion tubes around the world. For many kids, Boomwhackers are the first instruments they learn to play!



Writing Tips

Before you write . . .

- Think of things about music that you know and care about.
- Make a cluster to gather details about your topic.

During your writing . . .

- Get the reader's attention in the beginning of your report.
- Share interesting details in the body paragraphs.
- Give readers something to think about in the ending.

After you've written a first draft . . .

- Read your report and see if any important details are missing.
- Give your report an interesting title.
- Check capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar.



Practical Writing:

How-To Essay

Expository writing can help a reader learn how to do something. Hillary wrote about how to repot a plant.

Growing, Growing, Gone!

The **beginning** introduces the topic.

When I outgrow my clothes, I get new clothes from my sister. When my plants outgrow their pots, they get new pots from me. **It's easy to repot a plant.**

The **middle** lists the steps.

To get started, you need to set up a place to work. An old table outside is a good place. Spread out newspapers to help protect the table. Then get a bigger pot, some stones, potting soil, and the plant.

First, cover the bottom of the new pot with stones and spread some soil over them. Next, tip the plant over and gently pull it out of its old pot. Put the plant into the new pot and hold it straight. Then pour in some more soil and pat it down. Finally, water the plant and add more soil if there is room.

The **ending** includes a final thought.

Plants are nice to have around. If you give their roots enough room, you will have beautiful plants for a long time.



Writing Tips

Before you write . . .

- Choose something you enjoy making or doing.
- List the ingredients or equipment you need.
- List each step for completing the project or doing the activity.

During your writing . . .

- Introduce your topic.
- Write a paragraph about the ingredients or equipment.
- Write another paragraph giving the steps in order.
- End with a final thought.

After you've written a first draft . . .

- Make sure your steps are complete and clear and are in the right order.
- Edit your work and make a neat copy.

Write a how-to essay about something you enjoy doing like making s'mores! Follow the tips above to write your directions. Share your work with a friend.

