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**Expository Writing:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
**Writing Stage:** Pre-writing  
**Graphic Organizer:** Story Map

#### **Explanation of Expository Writing**

Describe expository writing and provide an example. The primary purpose of this type of writing is to share information using expository patterns. Some common patterns include description, sequence, comparison, cause and effect, and problem and solution. There are a variety of types of expository writing, including "All About..." books, collaborative reports, individual reports, ABC books, riddles, posters, diagrams, charts, and cubes.

#### **Explanation of Pre-writing**

Tell the students about the first stage of composing expository writing. Pre-writing involves several activities. A writer must choose a topic, determine the function of the writing, choose an audience, and decide upon the form of writing to use. The use of graphic organizers often helps in this process. An author must decide what kind of pre-writing strategy to use.

#### **Modeling**

One pattern of expository writing is description. Demonstrate this model by selecting a topic and completing a graphic organizer, showing the process of deciding what to write about. Select an animal to write about so you can use the "Information About \_\_\_\_\_" organizer. Verbalize the thought process that accompanies the completion of the organizer.

#### **Practice Activity for the Group**

Select an animal as a topic. Using the "Information About \_\_\_\_\_" organizer, begin to write down the information requested on the list. Explain that this form will help you decide what information to include in your descriptive writing. Allow each student the opportunity to contribute to the list. If the students do not know the information requested, demonstrate how to use the <http://www.borrico.com/> website to find additional information. Allow students to work in small groups to gather information to report.

#### **Assessment Activity**

Have the students work independently to write a descriptive report about an animal, using the given organizer, and integrating technology by using the animal search website.

#### **Useful Web Site**

The Writing Corner  
Includes clarification of different modes and types of writing, rubrics, and writing prompts.  
<http://ccweb.norshore.wednet.edu/writingcorner/writingprocess.html>