

Name: _____ Period: _____

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING AN EXPOSITORY ESSAY 5 Paragraph Essay

An expository essay is a formal written piece that provides information about a specific subject or topic. Basically, an essay uses many of the same rules as summarizing paragraphs, with one difference -- essay paragraphs do not need 'closing sentences'. Writing an expository essay requires a lot of preparation. It includes gaining a deep understanding and critically thinking about the subject. The information and data must be organized in a logical manner, and they must be written in a way that is clear and convincing to the reader. Here's the process: **READ CAREFULLY**

1) Develop your main idea from your learning and gather supporting details / examples

- a) Read, take notes, and know your subject.
- b) Develop your **main idea about your subject -- (your thesis statement)**.
- c) Gather your **supporting details / examples**
- d) Organize your information for your essay using an outline or graphic organizer.

2) Type your draft essay

- a) **Write an Introductory Paragraph for your essay (Paragraph 1)**
 - i) The sentence that states the main idea or subject of your essay is called the thesis sentence. It must be clear and direct, as well as interesting. Throughout your essay, you must direct your writing towards the thesis sentence.
 - ii) In the same introductory paragraph, state your **main supporting points** -- the three best specific ideas/reasons that you have to support your thesis sentence. These ideas/reasons become the topic (and topic sentences) of your "middle" ("body") supporting paragraphs.
 - iii) The introductory paragraph should capture the reader's interest and make him/her want to read your essay.
- b) **Write the Body (middle) of the essay (Paragraphs 2, 3, 4)**

Each of your 3 **main supporting points** should be developed into topic sentences for each of your three body paragraphs. Use the same order that you had in your introductory paragraph. Be sure to give supporting details and/or examples that are specific, relevant and accurate. Body paragraphs are like summarizing paragraphs, except you do not need a closing sentence in the paragraph.
- c) **Write a Concluding (closing) paragraph (Paragraph 5)**

In the concluding paragraph, you need to restate your thesis sentence in a fresh way, and summarize the main points of your essay. Do not introduce new material in the conclusion. Do not copy the introductory paragraph. Be fresh. Remind the reader with a 'clincher' sentence that what you wrote was important and care about your topic.

3) Revise your draft essay, using the following checklist (modified from "Write Source", 2000)

If your answer is "No" then go back and make corrections.

- a) Does the opening paragraph have a thesis sentence? ___ Yes ___ No
- b) Do the main points in the introductory paragraph support the thesis sentence? ___ Yes ___ No
- c) In the body paragraphs, are the main points clearly identified as topic sentences and developed with relevant details/examples? ___ Yes ___ No
- d) Does the closing paragraph tie everything together and help readers understand the importance of the subject? ___ Yes ___ No
- e) Does the writing sound like I really care about my subject? ___ Yes ___ No
- f) Is my grammar and spelling correct? ___ Yes ___ No
- g) Did I avoid using personal pronouns? ___ Yes ___ No
- h) Is my essay interesting and enjoyable to read? ___ Yes ___ No

4) Type your final version.