

SURVIVE ALIVE!

OVERVIEWS



Expository Writing

Language Arts: Systems cycle

February 16-March 1st

Due February 29 (A)/March 1 (B)

Study Guide

Essential questions: How does a writer effectively communicate through an expository writing format? How does the writing process impact the quality of my writing?

Characteristics of an Expository Essay

Unlike with the narrative or argumentative essays, the purpose is to inform, describe, or explain

This essay must state important facts

This genre of writing teaches the reader something

Must be written in formal language: *3rd person* (he/she/it/they)

Our essay will be written in five paragraph essay format

Writing Topic: How to survive a natural disaster

Choose a specific disaster, and inform the reader how to survive through it.

All essays must be typed. Times New Roman, size 12, double spaced.

Steps to writing your first draft (Use additional handout for more a more in-depth look at this process)

Step one: Brainstorming. We looked at four different brainstorming methods and selected the best one for us.

Step two: Research your topic. When using websites, consider the site's purpose and reliability. Wikipedia is not credible, but can be used only as a stepping stone to more credible sources.

Step three: Write a strong claim statement. Come up with three supporting details.

Step four: Write an introduction. What will you be talking about? What background information do I need to know, to understand your topic? What is your claim?

Step five: Write the body of the essay. This is where you add all of the detail. Each supporting detail gets its own separate paragraph. Be sure to use *transition phrases* and words in each paragraph.

Step six: Write the conclusion. Bring the paper to a close by repeating the importance of your topic, the points you discussed, and summarize your conclusions.

NOTE: If you find yourself telling a story or trying to convince your reader of something, you are not writing and expository. Back it up and try again. Remember your goals is to teach someone how to survive.

The Peer Edit

As with any other written paper, this needs to have peers read it. Revision is not a choice; it is mandatory. Nobody writes a perfect essay on their first try. Students will revise papers until they are satisfied with their score. Peer edits will begin in class on February 24th.



