



Freshman Capstone Project

For their capstone projects, students will write an expository essay on the place choice, relating to the destination of the ninth grade trip. This essay must be typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font, be double spaced, and a minimum of 2 pages. This is a research based essay with a total of 5 sources. This project must include a works cited page and proper MLA citation.

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)

Steps to writing your first draft (Use additional handout for 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. When including your research, put quotation marks around anything that is not your own wording. Give credit for anything that is not your own ideas.

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. Do not introduce any new information in the final paragraph.

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 goal is to teach someone about a specific place.

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.

Deadlines and Time Table

- March 4 topic due
- March 11 claim and 3 supporting reasons
- April 1 research check-in: five sources due
- April 15 1st draft, Peer review with rubric
- April 22 2nd draft, Teacher review with rubric
- April 29 Final draft due
- May 9 Freshman Roadtrip

