

Easy Essays 6



Tools and Tricks



3 P's Persuasion



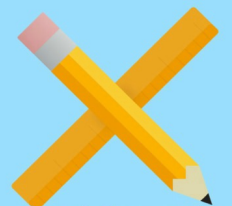
Simple Stories



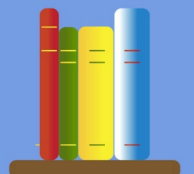
Writing Boxes



Daring Dialogues



Real Reports



Basic Biographies



Twice Told Tales

the
Really Writing
series

Donna Reish

Projects 2 & 3: Original Five Paragraph Expository Essay

3 P'soB Topics--Three Zoo Animals With Opening and Closing Paragraphs

Overview of Original Expository Essay Using Five Paragraph Approach

This week we will continue to learn about non-persuasive essay writing (using the Sentence-by-Sentence method) with the Five Paragraph Essay Approach.

However, this time you will find the material for your essay's content. Expository essay writing explains to the reader (or "exposes" him to information)—but without all of the statistics and data that more research-based informative writing contains.

I. TOPIC OF ESSAY

You will be writing an **Expository Essay** about **three zoo animals (similar to last week's given passage/source)**.

Choose any three zoo animals. These may be of the same type (i.e. three big cats or three breeds of monkey) or three unrelated animals.

II. NUMBER OF PARAGRAPHS IN THE BODY OF YOUR ESSAY

All students will write **3 Paragraphs** of the Body (P'soB).

III. SENTENCES PER PARAGRAPH

A. **Basic** students will write **4-6 sentences per paragraph**.

B. **Extension** students will write **5-8 sentences per paragraph**.

***Note:** You may always choose to write fewer sentences per paragraph but more total paragraphs in any CI writing assignment, with your teacher's permission.

IV. OPENING PARAGRAPH

All students **will** write an **Opening Paragraph**.

V. CLOSING PARAGRAPH

All students **will** write a **Closing Paragraph**.

VI. SOURCES

Students will not cite sources, but will use sources to find information about their chosen animals as needed.

VII. QUOTATIONS WITHIN YOUR ESSAY

Students are **not** assigned the addition of quotes. However, you may add quote(s) if desired. Any added quotes will **not** have to be formally cited; you may just include the author of the quote in a speech tag.

VIII. WRITE ON/ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Students will learn the following additional skills:

A. **Learning From a Sample Five Paragraph Expository Essay**

B. **Learning About the Three-Topics/Three Paragraphs Essay**

C. **Brainstorming**

D. **Minimal Research**

E. **Directed Thesis Statement Writing**

F. **Transition Words and Phrases**

G. **Transition Sentences**

Note: This Overview Box, which is provided at the beginning of each project, is here to give students (and teachers) an at-a-glance look at the entire composition assignment. Each step of each lesson is assigned and detailed throughout the week(s).

Lesson A. Study Skills/Prewriting: Learning About the Five Paragraph Essay Approach

There are many ways to write Expository Essays. We will continue with the **Five Paragraph Essay Approach** that we started with in the first project of this book. We will continue with the **one-topic-per-paragraph method** that you wrote from via the S-by-S Outline earlier.

Three Topics/Three Paragraphs

Three Topics—Each paragraph is about a different topic:

1. In this type, an Opening Paragraph introduces a major topic of which you will be writing about three “sub-parts” in the body of your paper.
2. This is the most simplified method because it is truly like **writing three one-paragraph essays and then putting those three together into one essay.**
3. In this method, you do not need as much information in your head about one topic—but rather smaller amounts of information about three topics.

<> **A-1.** Read the sample zoo animals essay (based on Week One’s passage/source) provided for you to see what a complete Five Paragraph Expository Essay (with each Paragraph of the Body (PoB) about a different topic--- three zoo animals) looks like (Box A-1).

One night after all the people had left the zoo, three zoo animals---the lion, the hippo, and peacock-- came out to talk. "Why do all the boys and girls want to hear me to roar all the time?" the lion asked. "My voice will get horse."

"You should do what I do and hide under the water," the hippo said.

"You are both wrong," the peacock said. "The best thing to do is to look pretty and walk around."

[End of Opening Paragraph--all "paragraphs" above make up the "Opening Paragraph."]

One animal that people go to zoos to see is a lion. Lions normally live in Africa, but these creatures can be seen anywhere in the world in zoos. Lions that are males have big manes. Female lions do not. Lions look like big cats, but they are actually dangerous animals. Female lions will usually hunt for food at night. Since they like to use teamwork, they will often hunt in groups of two or three.

[PoB-A]

Another zoo animal that is also from Africa is the hippo. Hippos live in the water most of the time because it is too hot for them on land. They are funny looking animals. They have large heads and short legs. Hippo is short for hippopotamus. Hippopotamuses will leave their aquatic place at dusk so that they can feast on short grasses. **[PoB-B]**

Finally, one animal that is seen in nearly every zoo is the peacock. Peacocks are brightly-colored birds with large tails. They usually live naturally in Asia. Their tails fan out behind them. Most peacocks are blue and green. Sometimes they wander freely throughout the zoo. Peacocks live on insects, plants, and small creatures. Some people have actually kept peacocks as pets. **[PoB-C]**

The lion and the hippo looked at the peacock. "I'm too scary to walk around with all the people," the lion said.

"I'm too big," said the hippo.

"Oh well," said the peacock. "I guess I am the best animal to visit at the zoo." Everybody has their favorites, but three popular zoo animals are the lion, the hippo, and the peacock. **[End of Closing Para-**

graph; all "paragraphs" from the end of PoB-C to this point make up the "Closing Paragraph."]

Box A-1

Now it is time for you to learn to write an Original Expository Essay. We will continue with the topic in the first project, but you will choose your own three animals--and you will gather your own material to write from.

<> **A-2.** Choose the three zoo animals that you would like to write about in your Original Expository Essay this week and write them on the lines provided (Box for A-2).

| |
|---|
| <p>Three Zoo Animals</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Box for A-2</p> |
|---|

Lesson B. Study Skills: Brainstorm and Research

Since you are writing an Expository Essay this week, you want to focus on “exposing” your readers to information. While it will not be a research-based paper in which you do extensive research, citations in parentheses, etc., you do need information in order to expose your reader to your zoo animals.

<> **B-1.** Brainstorm about your zoo animals in the Brainstorming Box provided (Box for B-1 & B-2).

- (1) Just jot down anything you can think of about your animals.
- (2) Write down ideas whether those thoughts are clear, make sense, etc., at this point.
- (3) Don't be concerned about whether you will use them or not; just write as much information as you can think of quickly.
- (4) You will research for more information in the next assignment. The brainstorming in this assignment will help you know what you need to look for during your research.

Lesson C. Research and Study Skills: Research for Original Expository Essay and Design “Working” Thesis Statement

A Thesis Statement is a statement declaring what your entire paper is going to be about. This is similar to when you learned how to write the Opening Sentence (LINK) of a paragraph—a sentence that tells what your entire paragraph is about.

However, in the case of a **Thesis Statement**, you will not just write what one paragraph is about—but **you will write what the entire essay is going to be about.**

For instance, if you were writing a Topic Sentence about one of your paragraphs about the tiger, you might say *The tiger is known as a ferocious and beautiful beast.*

However, you can not use that sentence for the Thesis Statement of your entire essay because it only tells what the one paragraph is about—the paragraph about the tiger. **The Thesis Statement must tell what the entire essay is about.**

For example, *There are three amazing, beautiful, and ferocious large cats that may be seen when one visits the zoo: the tiger, the lion, and the panther.*

<> **C.** Now that you have thought about your zoo animals and possibly researched them, you are probably ready to write a “Working” Thesis Statement about your three animals. Consider these tips when you design your Thesis Statement in Box C.

- (1) **Write one sentence that tells the reader what your essay is about.**
- (2) Be sure it **includes all aspects of your essay**--name all the animals.
- (3) Do **not** say, *In this essay, you will learn about....or In this essay, I will tell you about...*
- (4) **Include your animals** in your Thesis Statement in the same order that they will appear in the body of your essay.

Sample “Working” Thesis Statements

There are three colorful, whimsical, attractive birds that one can spot at the zoo--the toucan, the peacock, and the scarlet macaw.

There are three amazing, beautiful, and ferocious large cats that may be seen when one visits the zoo: the tiger, the lion, and the panther.

My “Working” Thesis Statement for this report:

There are three _____ , _____
(adjective) (adjective)

_____ **that one can see at the zoo--**
(animals or category of animals such as birds)

_____ , _____ , **and** _____ .
(first animal) (second animal) (third animal)

Box C

Note: If you do not feel prepared to write your “Working” Thesis Statement at this time, you may skip this assignment and come back to it after you complete your outlining.

Note: The Thesis Statement above is a “Working” Thesis Statement. You will tweak it later when you write your Opening Paragraph so that it fits well with the type of Opening Paragraph you use.

Lesson D. Write On: Transitions

While your Opening Paragraph--namely your Thesis Statement--will introduce the subject of your essay, you still need to remind the reader of the subject of your essay in each paragraph via Transition Sentences--or LINKS.

- <> **D-1.** In the sample essay provided (Box A-1), highlight the following sentences in PoB-A, B, and C (second, third, and fourth paragraphs).
- One animal that people go to zoos to see is a lion.*
 - Another zoo animal that is also from Africa is the hippo.*
 - Finally, one animal that is seen in nearly every zoo is the peacock.*

Each of these sentences is a Transition Sentence or Topic Sentence that LINKS that paragraph with the topic of the essay (the “thesis”).

In a one paragraph essay, these sentences are known as Opening Sentences. However, when you LINK multiple paragraphs, you will use more transition type sentences to tie the paragraphs together.