

EXPOSITORY WRITING NOTES

A) Expository Writing is: **Writing that explains or informs (i.e. directions, explain a process, define something) The writer's goal is to make readers understand something that is difficult, unclear, or unfamiliar.**

KEY WORDS: (VERBS)

EXPLAIN, TELL, WRITE, DESCRIBE, DEFINE, SUMMARIZE, INTERPRET, COMPARE AND CONTRAST, SHOW, ANSWER, ILLUSTRATE, RESEARCH

B) Purposes of Expository Writing:

- **Define a term**
- **Summarize a book or an article**
- **To compare and contrast two people, places, or ideas**
- **To tell how to solve a problem**
- **To explain how to do something**
- **To explain the cause of an event**
- **To interpret a work of literature**

C) How to do it:

- **Know your topic**
- **Use examples and facts that support your idea**
- **Present your ideas in a clear, organized way**
- **Add details to make your explanation interesting**

D) WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

INTRODUCTION (1 PARAGRAPH)

- Grab your reader's attention
- Make your topic and purpose clear (background)
- State your thesis or main idea
- State three (3) topics to support thesis
- Restate your main idea (thesis)

BODY THREE (3) PARAGRAPHS

- State your topic and support it
- Fit your style to your purpose with details
- Organize your writing logically (see table below)

CONCLUSION (1 PARAGRAPH)

- Restate your thesis and your topics
- Pull all of your ideas together
- Summarize your main points
- End by giving readers something to think about, ask a question about your main idea, or predict something

E) HOW DO I START IT? (HOOK)

- Tell an anecdote
- Ask a question
- State an opinion about your topic
- Give a startling or surprising fact
- Quote someone

F) WHAT IS THE BEST TYPE OF WRITING FOR MY PURPOSE?

- TELL WHAT A BOOK IS ABOUT
A SUMMARY
- SHOW HOW TO SOLVE A MATH *PROBLEM*
A HOW-TO EXPLANATION
- COMPARE TWO PEOPLE, PLACES OR *THINGS*
A COMPARE AND CONTRAST ESSAY
- ANSWER A QUESTION ABOUT A TOPIC IN SCIENCE
A CAUSE AND EFFECT ESSAY
- DISCOVER INFORMATION ABOUT A TOPIC THAT INTERESTS YOU
A RESEARCH PAPER

G) GETTING ORGANIZED

ORDER PURPOSES	DESCRIPTION	
CHRONOLOGICAL HOW TO ORDER SOMETHING	DETAILS & EVENTS ARE PUT IN THE ORDER THEY HAPPEN	TO SHOW DO
&		TO SHOW CAUSE EFFECT TO SUMMARIZE A STORY
ORDER OF READERS IMPORTANCE IMPORTANT	DETAILS ARE ARRANGED FROM LEAST IMPORTANT TO MOST IMPORTANT OR THE REVERSE	TO HELP SEE HOW AN IDEA IS

**MAIN IDEA &
TERM OR
DETAILS**

SUMMARIZE

FICTION

**AN IMPORTANT IDEA IS
FOLLOWED BY FACTS,
REASONS, AND ANECDOTES**

TO DEFINE A

IDEA

TO

NON-