

2012-2013

## Elementary Expository Writing Packet

*What is expository writing? It presents factual information, explains ideas, gives directions on how to do something or tells how something works. It must be clear and well organized. Some examples of expository/informational writing are biographies, interviews, factual paragraphs, news articles, reports, letters, "how to" directions, book reports, summaries, or recipes. One of the best ways to learn how to write informational pieces is to READ non-fiction materials. Gather high interest non-fiction books, magazines, and on-line websites that model informational writing.*  
*[www.timeforkids.com](http://www.timeforkids.com) or [www.scholasticnews.com](http://www.scholasticnews.com) are great age appropriate websites.*

I suggest that you choose one writing activity to complete each week. Don't try to complete the entire activity in one day.

### Here is a suggested schedule:

**Day 1:** Decide which graphic organizer you will use. Then read a non-fiction source together that will give you ideas for filling out your organizer such as: your social studies text, your science book, a non-fiction library book, a news article, or a website. Brainstorm ideas orally before writing on the rough draft organizer. Start filling it out.

**Day 2:** Reread what was started yesterday on the rough draft organizer.

Finish the rough draft organizer.

**Day 3:** Use an edit checklist to help each student add details and fix mistakes.

**Day 4:** Write or type a final copy.

Give each student an opportunity to read his/her paper to someone.

**\*Most of all, HAVE FUN writing!**

**The attachments that are in this packet are meant to be used as organizers and/or rough drafts for expository writing. When possible, try to connect the writing assignments to what you are already studying at home.**

### Student Edit Checklist

Write a + when you've done each one to your rough draft. Now you're ready to write your final copy! Write neatly.

- \_\_\_ wrote my name and the date
- \_\_\_ centered my title on the top line
- \_\_\_ indented paragraphs
- \_\_\_ read out loud: Did it sound right?
- \_\_\_ added facts & details
- \_\_\_ ideas in order beginning/middle/end
- \_\_\_ circled & fixed misspelled words
- \_\_\_ read/fixed capitals & punctuation
- \_\_\_ read my paper to someone

### *Sample Biography for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade*

#### **Mae Jemison: Space Star**

Have you ever dreamed of flying freely through outer space? Mae Jemison fulfilled that dream. On September 12, 1992, on the spaceship *Endeavour*, she became the first African-American woman to blast into outer space.

Jemison was born on October 17, 1956, in Decatur, Alabama. She was interested in anthropology, archaeology and astronomy. She graduated from high school at 16! Then she earned degrees in chemical engineering and African-American studies at Stanford University. No challenge was too great for her.

Jemison's accomplishments did not end there. In 1981, she joined NASA's space program in Houston, Texas. In 1988, she became an astronaut! Today, Jamison encourages young people to study the sciences. Her life example teaches us to follow our dreams, no matter how great.

*Time for Kids*

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(My recipe name)

Cook \_\_\_\_\_

**Ingredients:**

_____	_____
_____	_____

**Materials Needed:**

_____	_____
_____	_____

**Directions:**

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