

# EXPOSITORY WRITING

In the expository (informative) domain, students are required to provide clear information. Often the writing in this domain takes the form of what might be considered social and business correspondence: letters, memorandums, directions, and notes. The main intent is for the writer to present information without much analysis or explanation. Working in this domain, students learn to give attention to organization, detail, accuracy, clarity and appropriateness of tone, etc.

## K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

Expository writing at the K – 3 level is probably the easiest to encourage because it comes naturally to children. They love to "tell" about what is going on in their lives. For example, a kindergartner might draw a picture of his dog and dictate the sentence, "My dog is black." He just informed us about his dog. A first grader might use inventive spelling to write about her new Christmas toy or a second grader might write about her new shoes.

- Dictate invitations
- Dictate experiences
- Draw pictures of favorite toys, pets, friends
- Write about a special interest
- Write facts about an interesting trip

## 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Effective expository writing answers a key question: What is the current state of pollution in a local river? What is the lifestyle of the Humboldt penguin? Is nicotine addictive? When are the best months to visit Florida? Expository pieces are sometimes based on formal research (reading, interviews, Internet browsing), and sometimes based more on personal experience and observation.

Good expository writing is well supported by facts, comparisons, quotations from reputable sources, or relevant anecdotes. The writer will take into consideration the interest and levels of knowledge of the audience.

Some writing activities might include:

- Informational brochures
- Newspaper articles
- How-to manuals
- Cookbook entries (original)
- Short reports
- Write directions, recipes, and steps in making a product
- Write editorials supported by facts/research

## Additional Support

Our adopted textbooks provide varying levels of support for writing. Refer to your specific text for further information.

“Generic” writing packets can be found on our webpage. These contain more information and details for both parent-teachers and students. <http://hcs.hickmanschools.org/writing-packets.html>