**Informative (Expository) Essay Instructions**

An informative essay is different from a narrative essay or a persuasive essay. It presents facts, not opinions. Like a well-written newspaper article, it is unbiased and non-opinionated. An informative essay is used to inform and to teach a topic to a specific audience.

**Instructions:**

1. Investigate your topic. Research extensively so that you have a firm understanding of your subject. You are the subject matter expert, and should prepare yourself for any questions your audience may have, particularly if they know very little about the topic.
2. Check the facts. Use resources (minimum: three) with web addresses that end in .edu, .org, or .gov, which are education, organizational, and government websites. Use and cite credible references within your essay. The essay is an exposition of data about the particular subject and should be accurate and informative.
3. Write an outline that uses a five-paragraph structure. The structure is made up of an introduction paragraph, three paragraphs that make up the essay’s body, and a conclusion paragraph.
4. Determine the method of information delivery that you want to use in the body of the essay. The several types include compare and contrast, definition, example, and cause and effect. Research these methods if you are unsure about how to use them.
5. Define and provide background on your topic in your introduction. State a clear and concise thesis statement at the beginning of the essay. A thesis statement is a declaration of purpose that incorporates the topic and summarized what you cover in your essay.
6. Describe your main points. Include supporting information for your main points and make connections between the thesis and the supporting information so readers can understand how they relate. Offer in-depth analysis of the topic, supported by outside references.
7. Provide specific examples, and back them up with your references. Ensure each paragraph focuses on the individual point it covers. This is where you can use different strategies to educate your audience about your topic; the strategies are compare and contrast, definition, example, and cause and effect.
8. Restate your thesis in the conclusion of your essay. Your conclusion should restate the thesis and re-examine it in light of the information you presented in the essay.
9. Tips:

*\*Ask yourself questions about the topic and set about answering them.*

*\*Make sure to properly cite all references. They are used to support your facts and give credibility to your essay.*

*\*Do not introduce new information about your topic in the conclusion of the essay.*

*\*Do not show your feelings or opinions about the topic.*

All essays will be in MLA format with Works Cited page. A title page is not necessary. Follow the instructions in the MLA Guide for citing references within the text. Use only 12-point, Times New Roman as your font. Five-space or tab indents are acceptable. Do not use bold, underline, or larger font for your title. Formal English is required, so do not use contractions or slang.

**Informative Essay Topics**

Remember that an informative essay is meant to *teach* – you should find a question that needs an answer, and do the necessary research among several sources to prove that the answer you’re presenting is the correct one. Many things that should be common knowledge are not – these make very interesting topics for informative essays.

*Science*, for example:

1. How do airplanes fly?
2. What causes a rainbow?
3. Why does the moon appear orange sometimes?
4. What causes an eclipse?
5. How do fish breathe?
6. Why can you see your breath in the winter?
7. How does a CD/CVD player read CD’s/DVD’s?
8. How does 3-D printing work?
9. Why does alcohol change your behavior?
10. How do birds fly?
11. How do flowers and trees reproduce?
12. Why do we yawn?
13. How do we hear sound?
14. Why are some people colorblind?
15. How do touch screens work?
16. How do solar panels work?
17. What makes things taste differently?
18. Why can some animals camouflage?
19. How do x-rays work?
20. Why do fireflies light up?
21. Why is the sky blue?
22. How does a cell phone work?
23. How do mp3’s work?
24. Why do some people have to wear glasses?
25. Why do muscles get bigger with exercise?
26. What causes a cold/the flu?
27. Where does lightning come from?
28. What causes wind?

**Informative Essay Topics (continued)**

1. Why are some foods fattening?
2. Why does smoking cause cancer?
3. What causes wrinkles/grey hair?
4. What is our appendix for?
5. Why do we have a tailbone?
6. What does our liver do?
7. What causes arthritis?
8. Why does it rain?
9. Where does our electricity come from?
10. What is electricity, and how does it work?
11. Why does a zebra have stripes?
12. What causes baldness?
13. How does radio work?
14. How does television work?
15. How does a computer store information?
16. What is astrology?
17. Where do the names of the week come from?
18. Where do the names of the months come from?
19. Why is a year 365 days and why is a day 24 hours?
20. What do drugs do to the brain?
21. How do we remember or forget things?
22. What causes red hair?
23. Where does money come from?
24. How and why was the Internet created?
25. How do game consoles work?
26. How is electricity generated from wind?
27. Why was the Interstate system of highways created?
28. Why is pink for girls and blue for boys?
29. Why do our voices sound different when they are recorded?
30. How is electricity generated from water?
31. What is climate change?
32. How does a car turn gasoline into motion?

Or, you could come up with a question of your own (ask a child what they would like to know about the world of science). Make sure that you have your topic approved by your teacher before you begin your research.