

# Expository/Informational Guided Draft Essay Plan

These plans lead students to draft full Expository essays over the course of two weeks. Activities include a mix of pre-writing, scaffolded drafting, and targeted skill development. You can assign all of the activities or pick and choose!

Students respond to this prompt: **“Think of an activity you enjoy that many people overlook. Explain why it is a better use of time than people think.”** You can also use your own prompt, or one from our [assignment library](#).



This plan and prompt are designed to be easily used for remote learning. To this end, students can draw on evidence from their own experience, rather than rigorous research. If you want your students to conduct thorough research, be sure to add a research day between days 1 and 2, and share your expectations for research with students.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
<p>Students review key elements of expository writing and brainstorm ideas for their essays.</p> <p><b>Tutorial:</b> Writing an Expository Essay (5-10 min)</p> <p><a href="#">View</a> (Send this link to students)</p> <p><b>Quick Write:</b> Brainstorming Ideas for an Expository Essay (15 min)</p> <p><a href="#">Assign</a></p>	<p>Students brainstorm topic sentences and evidence, then outline their essays.</p> <p><b>Quick Write</b> My Essay Plan (20 min)</p> <p><a href="#">Assign</a></p> <p><b>Pre-writing:</b> Outlining an Expository Essay (30 min)</p> <p><a href="#">View</a> (Send this link to students)</p>	<p>Students draft the first body paragraph of their essays.</p> <p><b>Expository Guided Draft:</b> First Body Paragraph (30 min)</p> <p><a href="#">Assign</a></p> <p>(Students will work on this assignment for the next week. Consider first sharing <a href="#">this video</a> with them for an overview of the Guided Drafts assignment.)</p>	<p>Students draft their second body paragraphs.</p> <p><b>Expository Guided Draft:</b> Second Body Paragraph (30 min)</p>	<p>Students draft their third body paragraphs.</p> <p><b>Expository Guided Draft:</b> Third Body Paragraph (30 min)</p>
<p>Students practice identifying strong essay hooks, then draft their introductions.</p> <p><b>Tutorial:</b> Introductions in Expository Essays (5-10 min)</p> <p><a href="#">View</a> (Send this link to students)</p> <p><b>Expository Guided Draft:</b> Introduction (30 min)</p> <p>(Students continue working in the same Guided Draft assignment they began last week.)</p>	<p>Students learn what makes a strong conclusion, then draft their conclusions.</p> <p><b>Practice:</b> The Two Jobs of a Conclusion (15 min)</p> <p><a href="#">Assign</a></p> <p><b>Expository Guided Draft:</b> Conclusion (30 min)</p>	<p>Students learn to identify relationships between ideas in order to add transitions to their essays.</p> <p><b>Practice:</b> Identifying the Relationships Between Ideas (15 min)</p> <p><a href="#">Assign</a></p> <p><b>Expository Guided Draft:</b> Add helpful transitions to essays (20 min)</p>	<p>Students learn to identify wordiness, then revise and submit their essays.</p> <p><b>Practice:</b> Recognizing Redundant, Unnecessary, and Wordy Phrases (10 min)</p> <p><a href="#">Assign</a></p> <p><b>Expository Guided Draft:</b> Revise for wordiness and vague language (30 min)</p> <p>(If you'd like students to revise on Day 10 or later on, leave feedback and click "Send back for revisions.")</p>	<p>[Optional] Students revise their essays based on teacher feedback.</p> <p>Feel free to plan this for a later date to leave time for reviewing and grading!</p> <p><b>Expository Guided Draft:</b> Revise based on teacher feedback (30 min)</p>

We recommend sending students daily directions, available on the next page.

# Expository/Informational Guided Draft Essay Plan: Directions for Students

Here are some daily directions you can copy and paste to your students over email or your LMS. Feel free to add any of your own specific details or expectations!

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
<p>Go through <a href="#">this interactive tutorial</a> to make sure you understand the key elements of an expository essay. (Note: You must be logged in to NoRedInk to access the tutorial.)</p> <p>Then, complete the Quick Write called “Brainstorming Ideas for an Expository Essay” on your home page!</p>	<p>Start with the Quick Write called “My Essay Plan” on your home page.</p> <p>Then, put your thesis, topic sentences, and evidence together to plan your essay using <a href="#">this outline</a>. Save or print this sheet so you can reference it while you draft!</p> <p>[Optional]: Your evidence should be a personal experience or real-world example, or a statistic or quotation.</p> <p><i>(Teachers: If you want students to conduct thorough online research, add a research day between days 1 and 2 and share your expectations for research with students.)</i></p>	<p>Draft the first body paragraph of your essay today! To start, open the Guided Draft assignment and paste in your thesis to keep it top of mind.</p> <p>Then, write your first body paragraph based on the ideas in yesterday’s outline.</p> <p>For an overview of the Guided Draft assignment, watch <a href="#">this video!</a></p>	<p>Open the Guided Draft assignment you started yesterday and write your second body paragraph.</p>	<p>Open the Guided Draft assignment you’ve been working on and continue writing. Today, write your third body paragraph.</p>
Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
<p>Go through this <a href="#">interactive tutorial</a> to learn how to write a strong introduction for your essay.</p> <p>Then, go back into your Guided Draft and finish your introduction by adding a hook and bridge!</p>	<p>Learn how to write a strong conclusion by completing the practice topic “The Two Jobs of a Conclusion.”</p> <p>Then, go back into your Guided Draft and write your conclusion.</p>	<p>Complete the practice topic “Identifying the Relationships Between Ideas.”</p> <p>Then, go back to your Guided Draft and re-read your essay. Look for places where there are relationships between ideas that are missing transitions, and add transition words and phrases like “therefore,” “however,” or “similarly.”</p>	<p>Complete the practice topic “Recognizing Redundant, Unnecessary, and Wordy Phrases.”</p> <p>Then, go back into your Guided Draft and re-read your essay. Look for any unnecessary or wordy phrases you can cut out. Finally, submit your essay!</p>	<p>Open up the Guided Draft assignment again and look at the feedback I left for you! Revise your essay based on my comments, then resubmit it.</p>

**Tip:** As students are drafting their essays, you can view their in-progress writing by clicking their names on the class results page for the assignment.