

EXPOSITORY WRITING

**Um, yeah, I'm going to need you to go ahead and explain... if you could, that'd be great...'mkay?
Thanks...**

WHAT DOES "EXPOSITORY" MEAN ANYWAY?

Expository writing exposes; it explains; it **shows**.

You're basically SHOWING (explaining) your thinking. It is rooted in facts & reasons.

It is **NOT** meant to do the following:

- Narrate (tell a story)
- Persuade (convince)

OK, SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO EXPLAIN?

Expository prompts may ask you to do the following:

- Compare
- Define
- Solve

ALL expository writing is about the **presentation of facts.**
It's all about the **EXPLAINING** here.

COULD I SEE AN **EXAMPLE** OF A PROMPT?

Sure... Let's look at a few.

Some expository tasks ask students to **read a quote, adage or universally accessible topic and respond in an educated, thought-provoking essay.**

It might, for example, look like this:

Some say, “Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it.” Write an essay using details and examples to explain what this quote means.

(Notice the use of the word “explain” in the prompt!)

CAN I SEE ANOTHER KIND?

Sure...

Other expository tasks could ask students **to share examples to help support something. You'll be given a general statement and asked to give examples to prove it.**

Books can change our lives.

Ordinary lives sometimes give rise to legends.

Fast food cannot win over home cooking.

HOW ABOUT **ONE** MORE, JUST FOR GOOD MEASURE?

Ok. You know what a definition is, but some expository tasks will ask you **to expound on, clarify, or establish the boundaries for a given word. This may also include what the word is NOT.**

Responsibility

Sportsmanship

Friendship

Fun

A good roommate

MORE ABOUT THAT WHOLE DEFINITION THING

Let me give you an example. One of the topics on the previous slide was “a good roommate.” Upon brainstorming, I may decide that I believe a good roommate is/is not the following:

- Willing to share
- Organized
- Non-judgmental
- Considerate

These would become the topics of my paragraphs used to expose what “a good roommate” is to my reader.

WOW. OK, BUT YOU SAID THAT EXPOSITORY WRITING IS ABOUT FACTS, SO HOW DOES THAT WORK?

Yes, you're essentially gathering information and presenting it. Facts don't necessarily need to be researched. You know a lot of stuff. However, any time you can **attribute, document or credit** the original source **within the context of your essay--that helps your work to be exceptional.** You could be gathering from your own brain -- widely known ideas, personal truths. They must be **specific, concrete, and definite.**

- Anecdotes
- Comparisons
- Attributed Quotations
- Documented Statistics
- Descriptive details
- Credited Definitions

SO, HOW DO I BEGIN?

Think **traditional** 5 paragraph essay:
introduction (complete with thesis) and a
conclusion, with three(or more)paragraphs for
the body of the paper each focused on its own
topic related to the thesis.

THINKING TRADITIONAL 5. NOW WHAT?

Read the prompt and brainstorm. Really spend some time here so that you not only have a **quantity** of ideas from which to choose, but also **quality** ideas.

Next, try a skeletal outline to ensure you have enough material.

WHAT'S THAT LOOK LIKE?

Thesis

First topic related to claim

- evidence/explanation/elaboration

Second topic related to claim

- evidence/explanation/elaboration

Third topic related to claim

- evidence/explanation/elaboration

And so on...

CAN I SEE AN EXAMPLE?

Here goes...

“If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn’t lead anywhere.” – Anonymous

Write an essay explaining what this quotation means to you. Use details and examples in your essay.

** Important note: This prompt contains the words “to you” which could imply license to use 1st person. Otherwise, it is important to remain objective in your response.

NOW WHAT?

Think! Brainstorm.

Initial list of ideas:

- Albert Einstein suffered from mental retardation when younger.
- Bill Gates (second richest man in world) was bullied as a child.
- Problems I had while in grammar school.
- Wealthy people take success for granted.
- Singers and movie stars often face obstacles (i.e. Shakira)

OUTLINING IS NEXT, RIGHT?

Introduction: (Explain what the quote means to you)

Supporting Reason #1:

Evidence: (From literature, history, science, film, or current events)

Supporting Reason #2:

Evidence: (From your own experience or observation, or from someone you know personally.)

READY TO DRAFT!

INTRO:

A “path with no obstacles” would certainly be most people’s dream come true. Imagine living life without any problems. Imagine finding success without having to face failure. Imagine what such a life would be. (Hook reader) The quote holds the truth of life. Of course, not having to run into mistakes would be a dream come true. But at the same time, it would also be a dreadful loss. Obstacles, failures, and mistakes: with no obstacles every single challenge one encounters happens for a reason. A “path with no obstacles” is not natural. (Integrate quote) **Whether everyone believes so, obstacles are necessary in everyone’s path to succeed.** (Thesis Statement)

MORE DRAFTING

In thinking about some of the most successful people in life, nearly every single one had great if not ostensibly insurmountable obstacles in their “paths.” Albert Einstein, for instance, suffered from mental retardation as well as rejection from the first college he applied to. But those obstacles were necessary for his incredible contributions to the science community today. Another example is Bill Gates, the second richest man in the world and chairman of Microsoft. Gates was ostracized by his peers during his elementary years, but such hardships made him the successful figure he is today.

NEXT!

Failure is like oxygen in my life. It occurs all around. It is an omnipresent “thing!”
Obstacles are what prepare us for life by teaching us a little more about ourselves and the world and people around us. A good example of this as well as the importance of failure is entering middle school. Throughout elementary school, many succeed in coursework without much effort. Only after a student gets his first failing grade does he learn that it is important to prepare ahead. This kind of failure teaches us how it’s a competitive world, and one has to work to get by.

(This paragraph really needs another example to strengthen it.)

AND...

Many singers and movie stars have also faced obstacles in their lives.
Famous singer Shakira was renounced by her music teacher because her voice was too strong. Many movie stars were very unsuccessful during their first years but eventually climbed up to fame.

Ok, maybe I need to work more on that one, but I'll come back to it.

FINALLY, THE CONCLUSION

A path without obstacles probably does not lead somewhere because there is probably nowhere to lead to. Paths in life are made up of mistakes, and the destination is the culmination, the results, and the golden lessons learned from mistakes. Just how these people failed, others will continue to fail. Everyone fails. (Reminds audience of the main idea of the essay) To tell the truth, without failure, who knows where humanity would be. In all honesty it would certainly be a bad place. (In this conclusion, the writer reinforces how she has proven her point.)

ALL DONE, RIGHT?

C'mon, you know better than that. Drafting is basically the middle of the writing process. You'll need to spend time shaping the draft into a magnificent piece of writing through **revision!**

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