

Non-Fiction Form: Explain

Purpose:

- To explain how or why something happens;
- To provide facts that clarify how or why something works.
- Explanatory, or expository writing is not based on opinion, and strives to be as unbiased as possible. Information and analysis are given in a completely neutral voice.

Text Structure:

- Introduction: Identify what is being explained
- Because: Explanation of one facet of the idea, may use cause-effect
- Because: Explanation of a second facet of an idea, including facts in a logical sequence
- Conclusion: a summarizing statement that highlights the explanations to understand the idea.

Language features:

- Facts rather than opinion;
- Linking words such as then, finally, next, after, before;
- Explanation words and phrases such as because, that is the reason, that is because, that's what happens when, that is why, due to, because of, if, why, and;
- Nonfiction features may be included, such as diagrams and labels.
- Subject-specific vocabulary is often included.

Form: Explanatory writing often:

- Begins with the writer identifying what is going to be explained in the form of a heading or opening statement.
- The writer then explains different elements of the idea in a logical sequence, often including cause-effect statements.
- A conclusion wraps up the writing piece, synthesizing the large ideas that help to explain the idea.

Assessment:

How do we know if descriptive writing is good?

- We need to consider subject area criteria – what are we expecting them to show of their science, social studies, etc. knowledge? You can learn more about assessing curricular outcomes at <https://johansonconsulting.ca/2019/09/22/planning-for-outcomes-based-assessment/>
- We can also assess their understanding of writing, either formatively for our purposes or share this evidence with their ELA teacher.



Assessment of Explanatory Writing:

Criteria	Description				
Form:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins with a clear statement of what is going to be explained. Ends with a conclusion synthesizing big ideas. 				
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows structure of Introduction – Because – Because – Conclusion. Information is given in a logical order. 				
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student locates information from various sources, both book and non-book. 				
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engages reader with interesting facts and details. 				
Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate writing techniques: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voice Evidence of explaining words and phrases. 				
Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective use of spelling, punctuation and grammar. 				

Assessment of Subject Knowledge:

Criteria	Description				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 				

Gear, A. (2014). *Nonfiction Writing Power*. Markham: Pembroke Publishers.

