

The American Dream

Informative/ Explanatory Essays

Throughout history people have been passionate about all kinds of issues just like we are at Pathfinder. Famous people such as Martin Luther King had such passions - and these passions changed our country. We are going to take a deeper look at ordinary Americans in the 1800s who had dreams that changed our country. We will explore their hardships, their dreams, and their legacies. We will see how these ordinary Americans chased their dreams and have left their legacy, or their story, to hand down for future generations to follow.

Purpose:

The purpose of an Informative/Explanatory essay is to explain, inform, teach, or clarify a topic to the reader. In order to write this type of essay you must develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete



Dream a little dream..... and choose from the

Explorers
Californios
Mountain Men
Missionaries

PioneerWomen
Forty Niners
Chinese
Immigration

Name _____

Pre Project Date _____

Post Project Date _____

Pre Project Y/N/S	Reading Informational Text Targets	Post Project Y/N/S
	I can read and identify details from informational text.	
	I can read and determine supporting details for inferences made.	
	I can summarize the informational text.	
	I can determine the relationship between the central ideas and the supporting details.	
	I can define words and identify their meaning within the text.	
	I can identify the structure of a paragraph in informational text.	
	I can identify relevant/irrelevant evidence-- credible/non credible source.	
	I can classify the evidence as relevant/irrelevant.	
	I can compare and contrast 2 or more pieces of informational text.	
	I can evaluate the different mediums of informational text including print, digital, and video	
	I can read and understand grade level informational text.	
	I can determine the author's point of view in writing the informational text	



Gather the Supplies..... and read/

In step #2, you will READ AND RESEARCH the topic you selected and investigate the reasons they chased their dreams, the hardships they experienced, and legacies that remain.

- Groups will use the Google shared document
- Each of you will work independently to research your topic, but you will share your notes
- Each group member is required to write a minimum of 10 notes
- You and your group mates should not use the same web page

Required NoteFormat

YOUR NAME	DIRECT QUOTE	EXPLAIN	AUTHOR'S last name or TITLE of article	PAGE #	URL ADDRESS
	"quote"	I wondered...		Often Page 1	Copy & Paste

How?

1. Group Leader will follow directions from video to share the google template.
2. Begin research and confirm with each other that you are using different articles.
3. Take notes and fill in ALL columns.
4. Make sure you copy the URL address.

Share the example:

<http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/English/essay/table.html>

Name _____

Pre Project Date _____

Post Project Date _____

Pre Project Y/N/S	Writing Informational Text Targets	Post Project Y/N/S
	I can use an introductory technique.	
	I can write a thesis statement.	
	I can write arguments.	
	I can support my arguments with factual evidence.	
	I can organize my writing.	
	I can use transition words.	
	I can write a concluding statement.	



Double Check your Luggage

- Watch keynote on Thesis again
- Watch keynote on Transitions
- Fill out Pre- Writing Worksheet and get it signed
- Fill out graphic organizer and get it signed

Name: _____

Date: _____

Hour: _____ Lions or Tigers

Time Capsule Pretest – *5 attempts*



Thesis Statement

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Pre-Writing Worksheet

1. What introductory technique are you using?_____

2. Write the first 2 sentences of your introduction:_____

3. Write your thesis statement and CIRCLE the word that indicates it is your thesis:

4. Write at least 5 transition words from this list or from the keynote that you will use in your essay:

about	after	afterward	at least	at the same time	before
during	immediately	finally	first, second, third	for example	for instance
earlier	in support of	in fact	last	later	when
next	therefore	since	this shows	then	till
meanwhile	while	as a result of	however	likewise	although

Teacher Signature:_____



Begin the Journey and start writing your

Informative/ Explanatory Essays Rubric

1st Paragraph _____/5 pts

Introductory technique

Position and Issue stated in your THESIS-- LAST SENTENCE OF 1st Paragraph

Circle the word that started your thesis sentence

If	After	Since	Before	So that	Even	As if
As	Unless	While	When	Whenever	As soon as	Although
Until	Whether	Where	Though	Even if	As long as	

2nd Paragraph _____/10 pts

Topic Sentence

Support

Support

Support

** Must use evidence from your research-- **Must explain/comment on the evidence**

3rd Paragraph _____/10 pts

Topic Sentence

Support

Support

Support

Must use evidence from your research--Must explain / comment on the evidence**

4th Paragraph _____/10 pts

Topic Sentence

Support

Support

Support

Must use evidence from your research--Must explain / comment on the evidence**

5th Paragraph _____/5pts

Conclusion restating your main ideas

Summary

Conventions: _____/5pts

Transition words

Spelling

Punctuation

Complete Sentences

Evidence: _____/5pts

1 primary source

All evidence cited correctly

Total Points _____/50pts