The Five-Paragraph Essay
(For Expository Writing)

ABCDE Essay Structure
EXAMPLE PROMPT:

What do you think is the best holiday of the year? Provide reasons and examples to support your answer.
PREWRITING – BRAINSTORMING #1

What is my favorite holiday?

Christmas

Easter

Valentine’s Day

4th of July

Thanksgiving

New Year’s Eve
Christmas is my favorite holiday.

**Presents**
- When you give presents, you are thinking of others.
- Giving presents is unselfish.
- Christmas is the season of giving.
- It is fun to make gifts, bake gifts, and wrap gifts.

**Tradition**
- Decorating the tree
- Hanging the lights
- Religious traditions are important
- Neighborhood get-togethers
- Holiday parties and holiday food

**Family Togetherness**
- Traveling is fun
- Eating together at large family dinners
- Taking time to be together as a family
- Putting aside silly disagreements during the holidays
EXPOSITORY ESSAY PROMPTS
DIRECTIONS: YOU WILL CHOOSE ONE PROMPT FOR YOUR MULTIPLE PARAGRAPH ESSAY.

1. Every place and age group has its own fashion. What’s cool where you live? Imagine a new student your age has just moved to your town. Write a well-organized essay explaining to the student how to dress to impress.

2. There’s nothing like receiving the perfect gift – one picked out just for you by someone who knows you well. Some gifts are things you can hold in your hands, while others are things you hold in your memory, like someone’s time, help, or encouragement. Write a well-organized essay explaining the best gift you have ever received and what made it so special.

3. We all have something to be proud of, whether it's something good we’ve done, something bad we’ve refused to do, or simply who we are. Write an essay explaining your proudest moment and why it stands out to you. Be sure to give plenty of details about what happened and how you felt.
Expository Essay Brainstorming

Now, you will create circle maps for two of the prompts to brainstorm which prompt will be the best option for you.

- **For the fashion prompt:** Make a circle map to brainstorm all of the different fashion styles you see in your age group in order to pick what specific fashion styles you would recommend to the new student. Then, create another circle map to brainstorm why you would recommend those styles.

- **For the best gift prompt:** Make a circle map to brainstorm gifts you have received in order to pick the best one. Then, create another circle map to brainstorm reasons why that particular gift was the best.

- **For the proudest moment prompt:** Make a circle map to brainstorm proud moments in your life to pick the most important one. Then, create another circle map to brainstorm reasons why that moment is your proudest.
INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

Attention-Grabber

Bridge/Background

Central Thesis Statement

General

Specific
CENTRAL THESIS STATEMENT

- Most important sentence of the essay.
- It is the main idea statement. *(Highlighted in green)*
- Always an *opinion*.
- Contains three main points supporting the opinion (these points come from your Thinking Map).
- Must be written first before planning the essay.
- Narrows the topic down to a manageable size.
- Always the last sentence of the Introductory paragraph.
CENTRAL THESIS STATEMENT

Example:

Christmas is the best holiday of the year because of presents, traditions, and family togetherness. Opinion 3 Reasons
ATTENTION-GRABBER

- Always the first sentence of the first paragraph

- **Purpose:**
  - To “hook” the reader
  - To introduce the subject

- NEVER an opinion.
  - You don’t want your audience to disagree with you right away.

- Facts work better.
  - Your audience can’t disagree with a fact.
ATTENTION-GRABBER

Example:

Christmas comes only one day a year, but the preparations take months for many Americans.
BRIDGE/BACKGROUND

- Gives background information and details that will help your reader understand the details in the rest of the essay.

- In an expository essay, you should explain the background relating to your topic (definitions, and so on).

- Should be at least 3 sentences.
Example:

Decorations, Santa Claus, caroling, and many other traditions enrich the nature of the holiday. Furthermore, no other holiday creates such excitement, can boast such intrigue, or is planned for over as long a period of time as Christmas. People start saving money, making plans with relatives, and start shopping months before Christmas.
DIVISION PARAGRAPHS (BODY PARAGRAPHS)

Each paragraph in the body should be a POWER PARAGRAPH, with:

• A topic sentence
• Supporting Details/Examples (with transitions)
• Restatement of Topic Sentence

Explanation 1. Transition, reason 2.
Explanation 2. Transition, reason 3.

Explanation 1. Transition, reason 2.
Explanation 2. Transition, reason 3.

Explanation 1. Transition, reason 2.
Explanation 2. Transition, reason 3.
DIVISIONS (BODY PARAGRAPHS)

Example D-1:

One of the main reasons Christmas is the best holiday of the year is because of presents.

• Thinking of others + Explanations/Examples
• Unselfishness + Explanations/Examples
• The season’s spirit of giving + Explanations/Examples
• Buying, baking, and making gifts + Explanations/Examples

Then you would restate your D-1 main idea statement from above.
Example D-2:

Another reason Christmas is one of the best holidays of the year is because of the traditions.

- Decorating the tree + Explanations/Examples
- Religious services + Explanations/Examples
- Hanging the lights + Explanations/Examples
- Egg nog and parties + Explanations/Examples
- Neighborhood customs + Explanations/Examples

Then you would restate your D-2 main idea statement from above.
DIVISIONS (BODY PARAGRAPHS)

Example D-3:

Finally, perhaps the best reason Christmas is the best holiday of the year is because the celebration promotes family togetherness.

- Traveling great distances + Explanations/Examples
- Large family meals + Explanations/Examples
- Family ties and unity + Explanations/Examples
- Putting aside disagreements + Explanations/Examples

Then you would restate your D-3 main idea statement from above.
CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

Ending Statement

Summarize Division Paragraphs

“Clincher” Statement

Specific

General
A restatement of the Central Thesis Statement (also highlighted in green).

Basically, the same as the Central Thesis, but using different words.

This is the first sentence of your Concluding Paragraph.
Example:

Presents, traditions, and family togetherness blend together to create a special holiday unlike any other holiday celebrated by Americans.
SUMMARIZE DIVISION PARAGRAPHS

- Quickly restate each of your supporting details.

- This will remind your reader of your reasons.
“Clincher” Statement

- This is meant to drive home the argument.
- It helps to write something that affects the reader.
- In an expository essay, write a thoughtful ending that is strong and powerful that leaves your reader thinking about your main idea.
  - For example:
    - You can go back to the creative ideas you used to begin your essay in the Attractor
    - You can end with a personal story (anecdote) about how you used the information
    - You can inform the reader what to do with this information – how he/she can now be better informed to do something
**ABCDE ESSAY FORMAT**

- **Introductory Paragraph**
  - Attention-Grabber
  - Bridge/Background
  - Central Thesis Statement

- **Body Paragraphs**
  - Divisions

- **Concluding Paragraph**
  - Summarize
  - “Clincher” Statement
  - Ending Statement
Expository Essay Brainstorming & Outline

- After you have chosen your prompt, pick what specific fashion, gift, or proud moment you are going to talk about. Then, start brainstorming what your three main points are going to be.

- Once you have finished brainstorming, it is time to begin your ABCDE essay outline.

- Reminder: you need to write your central thesis statement first!

- Consider using one of the following sentence frames to help you write your central thesis.
  - To dress to impress, you must have __________, __________, and __________.
  - The best gift I have ever received is _____________, because __________, ___________, and ____________.
  - The proudest moment in my life is ________________, because __________, __________, and ____________.

- If you are struggling, have questions, or want to get someone’s opinion, ask your group members first. 😊
Expository Essay Outline

Today, you need to finish outlining your introduction as soon as possible if you have not already.

Then, it is time to plan out your division (body paragraphs).

Remember, your thesis is a plan for what you are going to talk about in your body paragraphs.

For example:

- Thesis: My proudest moment in life is when I graduated college, because I worked hard, I paid for it on my own, and it was a step towards my future.
- D-1: Explain how I worked hard and why I was proud.
- D-2: Explain how I paid for it on my own and why I was proud.
- D-3: Explain how it was a step towards my future and why I was proud.

Once you have planned out your division, move on to your conclusion and you’re done!

If you are struggling, have questions, or want to get someone’s opinion, ask your group members first. 😊
Today you need to complete your rough draft and submit it to Turn It In.

**DO NOT TYPE YOUR NAME ON THE ROUGH DRAFT.** You will add your heading when it is time for the final draft.

Begin typing out your rough draft. The outline has the structure in order, so please follow it. Remember that you will need to type out your pink and yellow sentences in the body paragraphs since you only have bullet points on the outline.

Indent the beginning of each paragraph. You may also skip a line between paragraphs. In the end, you will have 5 paragraphs. No more, no less.

Please do not change fonts or colors; just leave it on the default settings.

When you finish your rough draft, please raise your hand so I can make sure it’s ready to submit to Turn It In.
Why is this good constructive feedback?

- You seem to repeat the same thing here. Add in more evidence to make some different points.
- Awesome clincher! It was a strong ending and made me think.

Why is this bad constructive feedback?

- I don’t understand this part.
- Great job!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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| 4     | • introduce the topic clearly, previewing what is to follow  
• organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions  
• develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples  
• use appropriate and varied transitions to unify and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts  
• use precise language and vocabulary  
• establish and maintain a formal style  
• provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g. formulating implications or the significance of the chosen topic) |
| 3     | • introduce the topic clearly, previewing what is to follow  
• organize ideas, concepts, and information  
• develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples  
• use appropriate transitions to unify and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts  
• use precise language and vocabulary  
• establish and maintain a formal style  
• provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented |
| 2     | • introduce the topic  
• organize ideas, concepts, and information  
• review the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples  
• use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts  
• use correct language and vocabulary  
• establish and maintain a formal style  
• provide a concluding statement or section |
| 1     | • attempt to write an informative/explanatory text to define a central idea  
• attempt to summarize ideas, concepts, and information by selecting and organizing content. |
EXPOSITORY ESSAY REVISIONS

- Today you need to read through your essay reviews and begin making changes to your essay.

- Log on to the computer and open up your expository essay rough draft word document.

- Then, open up Google Chrome.
  - Go to www.turnitin.com and log in. Then, click on your class period.
  - At the bottom of the list of assignments, you should now see a gray button that says “Read Reviews.”
  - Select that button and begin reading your reviews. Make any changes that you feel need to be made.

- Some students find it helpful to have Google Chrome and the rough draft word document side by side.