

LESSON 85: *Creative Writing Expository Free Writing*

Today you will pretend to be a newspaper reporter. Look once again at the painting used in lesson 76.

Write a short selection about what a typical school day in Holland in the 1600's was like, based on what you see in this painting. Remember to use an expository style, which exposes the facts, but does not interject your own feelings or opinions, even though it may be influenced by your perspective.

When you are through, ask your parent to read your paper, to be sure it is written in a true expository style. Then, label your writing "Expository," and attach it over the other on the previous page spread.

LESSON 86: *Introducing the Persuasive Essay*

The persuasive essay can also be called the "argument essay," because its job is to argue a particular point of view and try to sway or persuade the reader to agree.

To write a persuasive essay, you must be well-informed about your topic. Be sure your points are based on proven fact, and not just opinion or "perceived truths." Quoting experts in the field you are writing about, or citing works of fact that support your argument are always helpful additions to your essay, as well as citing statistics or studies.

Because this essay requires more than your own knowledge on the chosen subject alone, it is most helpful to, after choosing your topic, gather the information you will use as your supporting resources, and have them on hand as you write your essay.

This essay will follow much the same basic format as the other essays you have written so far, but the feel will definitely be different. Persuasive writing is more forceful. It is the type of writing most often used by politicians to show the public why they should be the candidate of choice.

Let's look at the prerequisites to writing a persuasive essay, before we begin:

1. Choose a topic that you feel strongly about.
2. Determine the two basic points of view on this topic.
3. Gather information to support your point of view.
4. Begin!

Start thinking about some possibilities. Tomorrow you will begin to write them down.

LESSON 87: *An Example of a Persuasive Essay*

On the next page, you will read a persuasive essay. Like all essays, it has three basic parts - the introduction, the body, and the conclusion. Note how I use the introduction to introduce the topic. Next, the body gives information, using facts and quotes to support my point of view. Finally, the conclusion wraps things up by stating once again my point.

Do We Need a Water Park?

The thought of a water park in Chester County is nothing new. This is an idea that has been kicked around in public meetings since its introduction by Mayor Carmichaels in 1994.

The question is – does Chester County need a water park?

“Since the community swimming pool gets so little use, it stands to reason that the community residents would prefer something different. I believe a water park would give them the variety they desire, and still give our youth a place to come to during summer vacation. This is something that would be utilized by the entire community, and would be considered money well spent,” was Mayor Carmichaels’ opening statement at the December 1994 meeting, where this idea was first introduced.

But a closer look at Chester County residents’ habits, climate, and financial situation suggest otherwise.

Statistics show that, between 1985 and 1995, an average of fifteen percent of Chester County residents visited the community swimming pool during any given summer. In a rural community, many residents prefer to have their own backyard pool rather than to drive half an hour or so to a public pool to swim. The fact that Chester County’s average summer temperature reaches a high of between 65 and 70 degrees does not suggest a need for residents to have a place where they can go to cool off.

Looking at the limited financial resources of this rural county, and the condition of the roads, which are heavily salted during the winter months and in great need of repairs, suggest that the \$2,500,000.00 proposed for the “needed” water park might be better spent, and in a way that would much more benefit the residents of Chester County.

Water park, or drivable roads – which of these amenities does Chester County really need?

Can you tell my point of view from reading my essay? Do you see how I supported it with facts and quotes – such as the mayor’s statement, the percentage of residents who visited the local swimming pool, and the climate of Chester County? These elements are used to support my point of view.

Think of a topic that you feel strongly about. It can be a made-up topic, such as mine in the essay above. Write your topic, along with any supportive factual information that you will use in your essay, on the blank page to your left. Tomorrow, you will begin organizing your thoughts into an outline.

LESSON 88: *Writing an Outline for Your Persuasive Essay*

Look over the information you collected yesterday to use for references in writing your persuasive essay. Look back to lesson 33 if you need a refresher on how to write an outline for your essay; then write an outline for your persuasive essay.

Make sure your introduction gives the main theme of your outline. The body of your essay should make your viewpoint known, while giving facts, statistics, and/or information, and using quotes, if applicable, to substantiate your point of view. The conclusion will give you a “last chance” to state your point of view by giving one final bit of information to try to persuade the reader to agree with your viewpoint.

Use the blank page to your left to write your outline, attaching another sheet of paper if you need more room.

LESSON 89: *Writing Your Persuasive Essay*

Use the outline you wrote yesterday to write the persuasive essay on your chosen topic. When you are through, ask your parent or teacher to read over your essay to be sure it is written in persuasive style. When you are through, attach your essay to the blank page to your left, over top of the outline for this essay. Label it “Persuasive.”

LESSON 90: *Creative Writing – Comparing Expository/Persuasive Writing*

In some regards, persuasive and expository writing is similar. Both “expose,” or present facts. But, it is the tone of the persuasive style that makes the difference. Good persuasive writing will challenge the reader to consider the writer’s point of view, even if it is in opposition to his own.

Remember my persuasive essay about the water park from lesson 87? Below, I have written another essay on the same topic, only presented in expository style.

Water Park Proposed for Chester County

The thought of a water park in Chester County is nothing new. This is an idea that has been kicked around in public meetings since its introduction by Mayor Carmichaels in 1994.

Noting that only 15 % of Chester County residents have frequented the county’s public swimming pool in any given year, Carmichaels feels that the community would benefit from a new water park, which would replace the pool at the same location, at 182 Bradley Drive in Lowellsburg.

Proposed cost for this project, which is scheduled to begin in March of next year, is \$2,500,000.00. Those who are interested in learning more about this project are welcome to attend the next scheduled commissioners’ meeting on January 3rd in the Chester County Courthouse in Lowellsburg.

Do you hear the difference in those two selections?

While the persuasive essay presents the facts, it is with a very prominent point of view expressed. When you read that selection, you KNOW exactly how the author feels about the proposition of a water park!

The expository essay which you just read also presents the facts, but with a much more “generic” feel to it. You cannot necessarily tell by reading it how the author feels about Chester County getting a new water park.

That little bit of extra persuasion in the first essay is what makes the difference.

LESSON 91: *Creative Writing – Writing Another Expository Essay*

Read over the persuasive essay you wrote in lesson 89. Now, using the outline for that essay, which you wrote in lesson 88, write an expository essay on that same topic. When you are through, compare the two to see the difference.

Attach this essay on top of your essay on the previous page, labeling it “Expository.”

LESSON 92: *Creative Writing – Getting Ready for Another Persuasive Essay*

Today, you are going to write an outline for another persuasive essay. The topic you are to write about is going to the dentist. In your essay, you will be writing to persuade why it is important to go to the dentist, or not to go to the dentist – whichever you prefer. Be sure to research your topic, and to have facts, statistics, quotes, and/or any other information that may be helpful on hand to quote from. Use the blank page to your left to write your outline.

LESSON 93: *Creative Writing – Writing Your New Persuasive Essay*

Use the outline you wrote yesterday, as well as the information you gathered in your researching, to write your persuasive essay about whether or not to go to the dentist. When you are through, give your essay to your parent to read to be sure it is written in the correct style. Then, label this essay, “Persuasive,” and attach it over your outline for this essay on the blank page to your left.

LESSONS 94 THROUGH 124 : *For Dictation*

Over the next few weeks, have a parent dictate these portions of the sermon, “The Vain Self-Flatteries of the Sinner,” preached by Jonathan Edwards . After you write down each section from their dictation, compare it to the original, correcting any errors you might make. This will be a lengthy exercise, but well worth the practice, as well as the practical application given in the sermon.