

## W2: Informational Writing

**Purpose:** The purpose of informational writing is to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately.

**Definition:** Writing that explains or answers questions such as:

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- What does this mean?
- How does this work?
- Why does this happen?
- Why is this important?

**Examples of Informational writing in the real world:**

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- Biographies
- Autobiographies
- Textbooks
- Technical text: Manual & cookbooks
- Newspapers
- Magazines

**Format that informational essays follow:**

Introduction- Hook and Thesis Statement

Body Paragraphs- Your thoughts on the topic with relevant details and evidence from the text (s)

Conclusion- Summary of your essay

### W2a: Introductions

**Hooks:**

**Purpose:** To capture the readers' attention from the start and make them interested in reading the rest of your essay.

Types of Hooks	Examples
Interesting <u>Quote</u>	"A life without service is simply meaningless movement." The memory of Mr. Barker's words rings so vividly in my mind.
Striking <u>Statistic</u>	Out of the 100 black boys that will begin kindergarten this year, only 16 will eventually graduate with a college degree.
Striking <u>Fact</u> or <u>Statement</u>	Everyone is definitely going to die, but every one may not experience this.
A Personal Experience	I remember standing there, gazing at the motionless object. It

	didn't take me long to realize that life as I knew it would be a thing of the past.
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Thesis Statement:

Purpose: The thesis is a very important part of an essay because it summarizes what you have in mind for this essay, and it guides the reader in reading your essay accurately.

### What a thesis *IS*:

- It directly answers the question of the assignment;
- It is a statement that unifies the paper by stating the writer's most important or significant point regarding the topic;
- Should stick out and the reader should be able to connect each paragraph of your paper to the thesis statement.

### Developing Your Thesis:

Most effective thesis statements often answer these three questions:

1. What is the essay's subject?
2. What is the main idea that will be discussed about the topic?
3. What is the evidence or support that will be used to support the main idea?

### Sample Thesis Statement:

*Playing sports is beneficial for children because it helps them develop better cooperation skills, better coordination, and better overall health.*

### A thesis is NOT:

- A title:
  - Title- My first smoking experience
  - Thesis: Though many young people think smoking is stylish, I discovered smoking is a disgusting habit with many health risks.
- A question:
  - Question- Why do people eat so much fast food?
  - Thesis- The American diet has become unhealthy and low in quality because of our demand for efficiency.
- An opinion:
  - Opinion- My paper will tell you why people don't accept differences.
  - Thesis- We often don't accept people different from ourselves out of fear, ignorance, or learned prejudice.

### Transition Words:

Topic Sentences	To connect ideas within the paragraph	Citing Evidence	Closing sentences/ conclusion
To begin; To start; The first	Additionally; Next, Also,	According to the _ text;	All in all; As you can see; In

reason	Furthermore, In fact; Another reason	The author of _ states; According to the author of _ text	summary; In conclusion; To sum it up; Finally; In closing
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