



GT AND STANDARD LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Mrs. Zimick



Today's Agenda

- Make-Up Assignment for the Unit Tests
- Unit 5 Explanatory Essay Introduction

Unit 5 Informative Text Portfolio Introduction

- Topic Choice - Brainstorm
- Portfolio Overview
- Start the introduction!



What is an explanatory text?

- ✓ Explanatory writing communicates knowledge (Sometimes called Expository Writing - same thing).
- ✓ It provides and explains information; it may also give general directions or step-by-step instructions for an activity.
- ✓ Explanatory texts are neutral. You are not defending one side of an argument.
- ✓ Based on facts.



◦ Go to Message Board → Class Resources → Unit 5 link

- Explanatory Text Planning Sheet
- Final Draft Explanatory Text Expectations
- Explanatory Text Rubric
- MLA Formatting and Citing Sources Guidelines for Portfolios

Portfolio Overview

- Due in Lesson 11
- All of Unit 5 is preparing you for this assignment. You should complete a lesson, and then work on your rough draft (planning sheet). Make sure to spend a little bit of time each day writing your draft.
- Topic choices and expectations are posted in the “Final Draft Explanatory Text Expectations” handout.



Topic Choices:

1. Smartphones, tablet PCs, social media, and constant connectivity are changing the ways that people live, think, work, and connect. How do these technologies shape your life? Are you plugged in or tuned out? Why? Write an essay that explains to your fellow students the ways that you connect digitally and predicts how people will connect in the future.
2. The Chinese celebrate New Year with a dragon dance. How do you celebrate New Year? What other special days do you observe? In an essay, explain a celebration or ritual that you know about. Tell what is usually done and why. Explain it to a reader who is new to the event.
3. What are you really good at? Perhaps you can sink a free throw every time. Maybe you can identify birds by their songs, or make a very delicious homemade pizza. Think of a particular skill you have and could teach others. Then write an essay describing the process you use to accomplish this special feat. Provide enough detail so your reader can learn how to do the same thing.
4. Explain how to make a meal that is native to your cultural heritage.
5. *Students with a passion for a specific topic other than this list must consult their teacher before beginning this portfolio!*

Part 2: Use the following graphic organizer to help you plan and write the Explanatory Text Portfolio. THIS GRAPHIC ORGANIZER IS NOT DUE in Lesson 19. This is an optional planning sheet to help you organize your ideas. In Lesson 19, please follow the Final Draft Explanatory Text Expectations handout posted on the message board.

Explanatory Text Graphic Organizer

<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>Introduce the topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• open with a creative idea to get your reader interested• Briefly introduce the topic <p>Thesis Statement:</p>	
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Body 1

Topic Sentence:

- Focus on one idea about your topic.

Example #1:

- Provide an example that will support your topic sentence.

Explanation #1:

- How does the above example prove your point?

Example #2:

- Provide another example that supports your topic sentence.

Explanation #2:

- How does the above example prove your point?

Concluding Sentence:

- Make a statement that connects all of these ideas together, and concludes your point.



Any Questions?