

What's New in Writing?

PARENT NEWSLETTER

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Writers

Teacher's Name _____ Grade _____

Expository Writing Newsletter # _____

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The classroom continues to buzz in the area of writing! We are all putting pieces together on a consistent basis and have learned how to begin and end a piece successfully. This update will share some writing techniques for getting expository pieces off to a strong start and bringing them to a successful conclusion.

FOCUS SKILL AREA: INTRODUCTIONS & CONCLUSIONS

Writing a compelling introduction draws the reader in and sets the purpose for the written piece. On the other side, the conclusion sums up the main ideas and brings the writing to a natural close. The challenge is to set the tone for the writing and then give the reader a sense of closure and satisfaction that the piece has successfully ended.

We are currently working on techniques and skills to write effective introductions and conclusions. To grab the reader's attention, we write a **lead** using quotes, statistics, anecdotes, descriptive segments, or amazing facts. Some of these techniques need to be researched and others come from our experiences. This is followed by a **topic sentence** that sets the purpose.

To write effective **conclusions** we are learning to use word referents, hypothetical anecdotes, informative verbs, and restating main ideas as questions to sum up the piece. Ask your child to explain these techniques to you!

What can you do to foster strong Introductions and Conclusions?

- Read a number of introductions in published writing. You will find them in newspaper and magazine articles. Ask your child to identify the technique the writer's used.
- If your child is stuck trying to find amazing facts, statistics, or quotes help by logging onto the internet and searching the topic word.
- Ask your child how to write a topic sentence. He/she should be able to write one by stating the main ideas. When your child has to explain or teach you they generally gain a better understanding of the skill.
- Read a number of published conclusion paragraphs from magazine and newspaper articles. How did the author end the piece of writing? Ask your child to identify the skills or techniques.
- Practice writing the main ideas in question form. Try to use some word referents instead of the main idea word. (Ask your child what a word referent is.)
- Add an informative verb to the conclusion. Words like: definitely, clearly, or without a doubt add a sense of authority to the conclusion statement.
- See if your child can end the piece with a general topic statement. For instance: *Elephants are truly amazing animals.*

If you'd like more information on Introductions and Conclusions go to www.empoweringwriters.com, and click on the **Parent's Corner**. There is a link to expository writing. If there are any questions about your child's progress please feel free to contact me.