

What's New in Writing?

PARENT NEWSLETTER

EmpoweringTM
Writers

Teacher's Name _____ Grade _____

Expository Writing Newsletter # _____

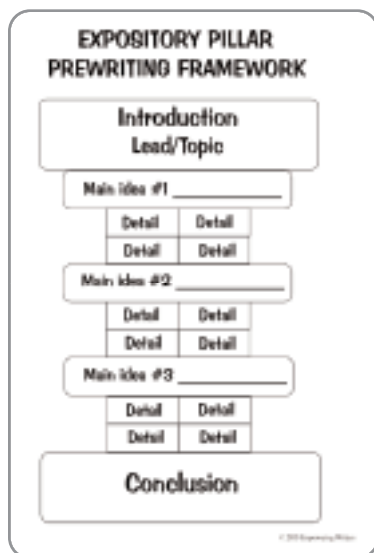
VOLUME 1

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You often ask how you can help your child become a better writer, or perhaps you want to know what your student is being taught in writing. This newsletter, one of several throughout the year, will guide you to information and offer suggestions for how to support your student writer.

FOCUS SKILL AREA: ORGANIZATION

Expository pieces are written for the purpose of informing an audience of others. It is, without a doubt, the genre your child will use most often in his/her school career and on into the workplace. Your child might call this an essay or report. The Empowering Writers Pillar is the graphic tool used to remind students how to organize this type of writing.



The **Introduction** and **Conclusion** are the broadest parts of the pillar because that is where the writing is most general in nature. Notice that there are building blocks that include the **Main Idea** and the **Supporting Details**. This is where the writing becomes more specific and includes powerful details that may have been researched: statistics, quotes, and facts. This is a standard essay format that often contains more than three main ideas or paragraphs, depending on the scope of the piece.

What Can You Do to Support Organization?

- Look through magazines and newspapers for articles that are well organized. Typically you will find articles that have headings to suggest the main idea and include details in each paragraph that support that main idea. Notice how the author organizes the writing and makes it flow.
- As you read your child's writing ask questions about the organization. For example: Is there a clear introduction and conclusion? Does the piece have at least three main ideas? Do the details correspond to and support the main ideas?
- Read the piece of writing and notice how it flows. Does it explain the topic clearly to the reader? Is there anywhere that the reader might become confused? Are the details specific to the topic and add understanding? Did the author include any extraneous details?

FAMILY CHALLENGE:

Look through a favorite magazine together. Pick out one article each and underline the main idea of each paragraph. See who is the quickest to write the main ideas in a word or two-a blurb-in the margin.

For more information on expository writing go to www.empoweringwriters.com and click on the **Parent's Corner**. You'll find a link to expository writing. If there are any specific questions about your child's progress in writing or the writing process in general feel free to contact me.