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EXPOSITORY WRITING

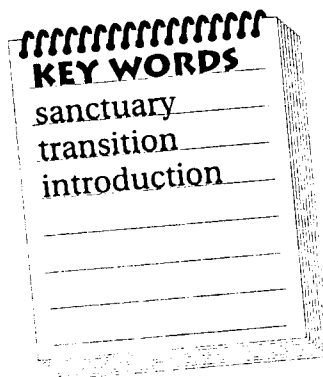
WHAT THIS EPISODE IS ABOUT

In this episode, students will learn tips and techniques for writing expository essays. By the end of the lesson, students will be able to

-  define the term *expository writing*
-  explain the purposes of expository writing: to inform, clarify, explain, define, or instruct
-  define the term *transition* and give some examples of transitional words and phrases
-  apply the writing process to writing an expository essay
-  write and revise an organized expository paragraph

VIDEO SUMMARY

Robin, Lindsey, Sarah, and the other students in the writing club go on an electronic field trip. Through a high-speed teleconferencing linkup at their school, they tour the Elephant Sanctuary.



Sanctuary cofounder Carol Buckley introduces the students to Tara, the world's only roller-skating elephant, who lives at the sanctuary.

After the field trip, Ms. Scott tells her students that they are going to form groups to write expository essays about the Elephant Sanctuary. She explains that the purpose of expository writing is to explain or inform.

Robin, Lindsey, and Sarah decide to write about why and how the sanctuary was created. They brainstorm a list of questions that they want to answer in their essay.



Robin and Lindsey go on an actual tour of the sanctuary with Carol Buckley, and they get to meet Tara. The girls ask Carol a lot of questions to get more details for their essay.

To obtain feedback, the girls show the first draft of their essay to another group of students. The group suggests that the paper needs more transitional words to connect the different ideas and events in the essay.

The girls revise their essay until they have a final draft that everyone likes.

BEFORE VIEWING THE VIDEO

Ask students to think of a topic they would like to know more about. The topic could be something of personal interest or something they have recently studied.

Determine what students know about their topics. Discuss how they would find more information on the topics.

WHILE VIEWING THE VIDEO

- 1.** After Robin, Lindsey, and Sarah decide to write down the questions they want to answer in their essay, **PAUSE** the video and ask students to make a list of questions they have about their topics.
- 2.** As the writing-club members begin their rough draft, **PAUSE** the video and give students time to find information about their topics. You may wish to have students go to the library or use classroom resources.

When students have gathered enough information, each of them should write a rough draft of an expository essay on the chosen topic.

- 3.** After the revision session at the writing club, **PAUSE** the video. Ask students to define the term *transition*. Write a list of transitional words and phrases on the board.
- 4.** Next, have students meet in small groups to revise their essays. Each student should read his or her essay to the group and listen to constructive suggestions offered by classmates. Let each student decide whether to make the suggested changes.

AFTER VIEWING THE VIDEO

After their expository essays have been revised, ask students to share them with the class.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

After students have completed their expository essays, ask them to create posters that present the same information contained in their essays.

INTERNET RESOURCES

The Elephant Sanctuary
<http://www.elephants.com/>

WritingDEN
http://www2.actden.com/writ_den/index.htm

Writing a Basic Essay
<http://members.aol.com/lklingstn/essay/>