

# Informative Essay Notes

---

EQ: What are the elements of well-written informative essays?

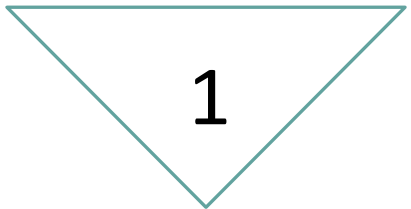
# This set of notes will cover...

---

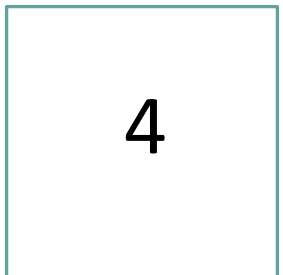
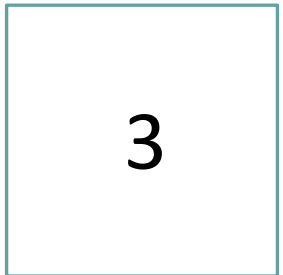
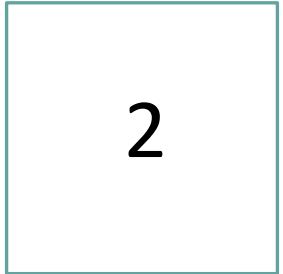
1. Five paragraph structure
2. Transitions
3. Formal voice rules
4. Introduction structure
5. Thesis statements
6. Quote Sandwich
7. Conclusion strategy

**EQ:** What are the elements of well-written informative essays?

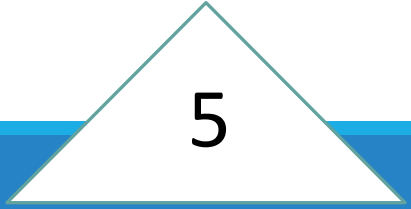
**Essential  
Components  
of the  
Informative Essay**



**Introduction**



**Body** (minimum 3 paragraphs)



**Conclusion**



# Essential Skills for Informative Writing

---

- ❖ Use appropriate transitions to clarify relationships between ideas and paragraphs. Very often, such transitions:
  1. Address an essential similarity or dissimilarity (*likewise*, *in contrast*, *despite*, etc.)
  2. Suggest a meaningful ordering, often temporal (*first*, *in addition*) or causal (*thus*, *therefore*)
  3. In a longer paper, remind the reader of what has earlier been argued (*in short*, *as has been said*, *on the whole*).

# Formal Voice Rules

---

- ❖ Establish and maintain a formal style.

## Formal Writing Voice Rules:

1. Do not use first-person pronouns ("I," "me," "my," "we," "us," etc.).
2. Avoid addressing readers as "you."
3. Avoid the use of contractions (~~don't~~ do not use them).
4. Avoid informal language and slang expressions. ("a lot," "gonna," "it was lit," "bet," etc.).

# Introduction Structure

## Hook Strategy:

Grab your reader's attention.

## Transition:

How does your hook strategy lead into your thesis statement?

## Thesis Statement:

What is the topic of your paper?  
What ideas will you develop?

# Introduction

---

Start with a **hook/grabber**, which begins your essay in a creative way that grabs the reader's attention.

- **F – Fact**
- **A – Anecdote**
- **D – Declaration/Description**
- **Q – Question**
- **Q – Quotation**

- **F – Fact**

- Nearly 99% of cats have at one time or another attempted to kill their owners.

- **A – Anecdote**

- A male watches as his brother falls in slow motion into a ravine; the brother who falls is flailing, his eyes wide. He has only seconds before he is trampled by a pack of wildebeests. His life is being cut short by the one person who should have supported him: his brother. Only cats would treat family this way.

- **D – Declaration/Description**

- Black and white, striped, spotted, or calico: Cats of all colors are equipped with fangs and a desire to kill.

- **Q – Question**

- How many cats have attempted murder? The answer is surprising.

- **Q – Quotation**

- Aristotle once said, “Man’s best friend is a dog. Man’s worst enemy – that would be a cat.”



# Introduction

---

After hooking your reader:

1. Identify what you will discuss (transition between your hook and thesis).
2. State your main idea and preview the points you will develop (**thesis statement**).

Example thesis statement:

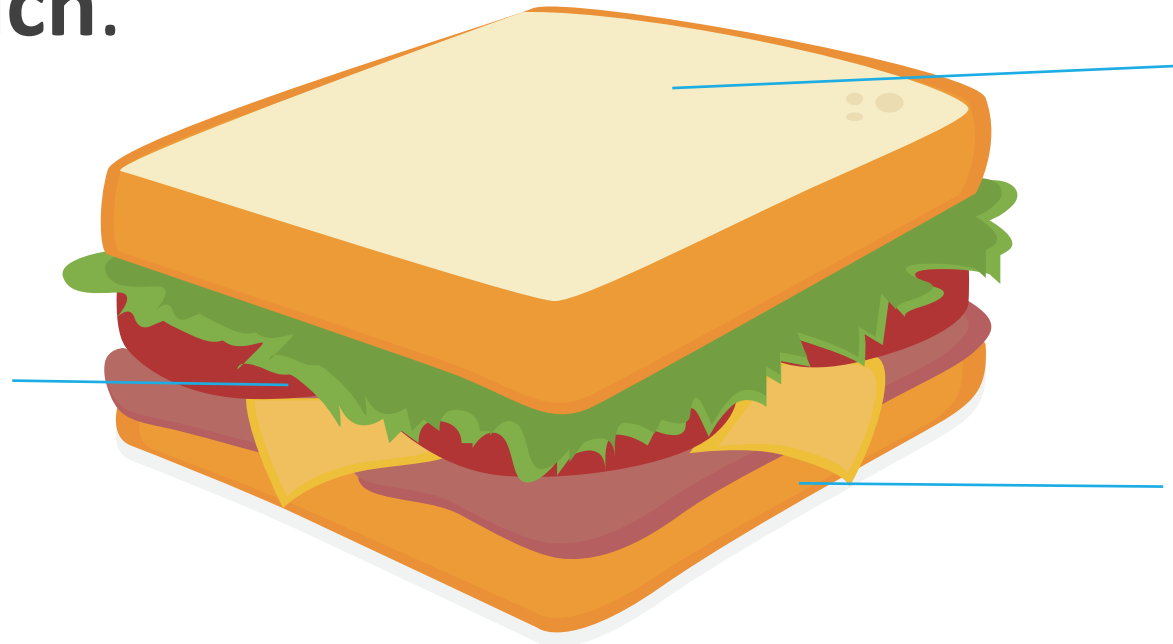
Ms. Frizzle is an exemplary teacher because she is passionate about her subject, encourages students to try new things, and makes learning fun.



# Body Paragraphs

1. Use PEEL to format your body paragraphs.

2. When integrating quotations as evidence, use the **quote sandwich**.



**1. Introduce it with a signal phrase.**

According to...

The author notes...

**2. Add your quotation with the parenthetical citation.**

**3. Explain how your quotation relates to your point.**

The quote sandwich is the Cite Evidence/Explanation portion of your PEEL paragraph.

# Example Quote Sandwich

---

Signal Phrase

Quotation

Explanation

In this scene Plato replies, “Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something” (45). Plato’s point is that people should always think before they speak. This is important to remember when communicating in any situation, whether talking to parents or chatting with peers, as speaking without thinking can lead to saying something one does not mean or will regret.

# Quote Sandwich Practice (5 min)

---

**Author:** Albert Einstein

**Quote:** “The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.” p. 3

## The Quote Sandwich

Introduction/signal phrase: \_\_\_\_\_


Quote: \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_


\_\_\_\_\_

# Conclusion

---



**1. Touch back to the points you made.** Review your thesis statement and summarize the points you made during your essay.



**2. Look to the future.** What are the future implications of what you've discussed. Alternatively, what is a connection you can make to something today?



**3. Go to the heart.** Why should your reader care? What difference does it make?



**4. End with a zinger.** This is an ending that zings the reader so that s/he is surprised, provoked to think, or made to laugh or cry.

- Question
- Quotation
- Original simile
- Humorous statement or joke
- Come back to theme

# Example Conclusion

---

Touch back 

Look to the future 

Go to the heart. 

End with a zinger 

Of the many wonderful teachers in the world, Ms. Frizzle stands out as exceptional because of her passion for science, her encouraging attitude, and her ability to make learning fun. Future generations of teachers could look to Ms. Frizzle as a guide for how to approach the classroom; this does not mean that they need to invent a magic school bus, but rather that they could incorporate elements of whimsy and fun into their lesson plans because those are the elements that make potentially dry topics exciting. **It is too bleak to consider the alternative, which is generations of students who do not learn about the wonders of science, math, language, or history because they think it is “boring.”** Inspiring teachers can help students instead dive head first into topics, or as Ms. Frizzle says, “Take chances, make mistakes, [and] get messy!”