Expository Writing Examples

READ THIS:

The purpose of this unit is to help you

a) know and practice what is expected in an expository essay and

b) know and practice specific tips for the STAAR test.

This is meant to guide your thinking through a process.

Expository writing **explains** your thinking in a clear and complete way.

Expository = Explain

Break down the word:

Expository comes from expose.

To expose something means to show it.

Expository writing means to show your thinking.

Keys to Good Expository Writing:

1. Good paragraph organization

2. Thorough (complete) development of ideas

3. Control of language usage – Expository writing does not have to take a stand on one side of the topic

Understanding the Prompt

1. Read the “Write” portion of the prompt first.
   a. The prompt will be presented with a “Read” part first, a “Think” part second and a “Write” part third, but you can choose to read the “Write” part first.
   b. Don’t forget to read the other parts, but it might help you understand more if you start with the “Write” part and focus on the assignment.

2. Highlight the words in the “Write” part so that you know exactly what to do.

3. Use a dictionary or a thesaurus to help you understand words.

Complete the following worksheets using the STAAR Humor Expository Student Examples 2014
**Paper 1/Page 1:**

**INTRODUCTION:**

How did the writer begin the paper? Circle one of the following ways:

- with a quote, saying, thought, fact, comparison, or other = ______________

Write their controlling idea focus or topic sentence here (write the whole controlling idea):

How many paragraphs does this paper have? ________

There should be clear ideas in each paragraph supporting the controlling idea. What are the topics the writer uses to support the controlling idea?

- □ __________________________________________
- □ __________________________________________
- □ __________________________________________
- □ __________________________________________
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**BODY:**

In the body paragraphs, what did the writer use to develop the paragraph? Check all that apply:

- Examples from real life situations
- Definitions of complex ideas
- Comparisons and Contrasts
- Combination of all the above

**CONCLUSION:**

An “echo” in expository writing is like an echo with our voices. We hear it come back, but it isn’t the same as the original.

At the end of the story, the writer should have an “echo” back to the controlling idea (something that restates the controlling idea without stating the exact same thing). What did the author write as the echo to the paper? Put the complete echo sentence here:

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**VOCABULARY:**

List three specific and strong vocabulary words the writer used to help focus the paper and make it stronger.
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