

## **The Nature and Structure of an EXPOSITORY ESSAY**

An EXPOSITORY is a style of communication which seeks to explain an event, topic or situation. Writers present the facts and details about their topic, injecting their opinion about it only at the essay's conclusion. Typical of all formal styles of writing, expository essays follow a set pattern and are usually divided into 3 paragraphs.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Expository essays begin with the TOPIC, where in short, direct sentences the issue is stated. Details about the SETTING and CAST are presented next. These sentences tell WHO the major players are and WHERE the issue is being played out. The final sentence is where the writer presents his/her OPINION but in a very condensed and introductory manner. This is a "grabber" that makes the reader want to read the rest of the essay to discover why the writer feels this way.

### **BODY**

This section contains the facts that support your opinion. An expository essay describes and explains. It is a collection of the important information that either provides all the details about a topic or situation or the step-by-step facts that fully describe an event. Be sure to organize the information in one of two ways, either in an ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, with major relevant details appearing early in the paragraph and less important details later, or in CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER. This is where you go through the event in the manner in which it happened.

### **CONCLUSION**

This section of an expository essay is reserved for the opinions of the writer. These feelings should in the form of answering some basic questions about the event, situation or topic, injecting your own feelings about the situation. End this section with a "look ahead," and what lies in future concerning the topic of the essay.

**PRE-WRITING OUTLINE** – using facts and details from the NEWS 12 video, the NEWSDAY article and the NPR radio report, fill in the following outline.

## **EXPOSITORY ESSAY**

### **Introductory paragraph**

**TOPIC** – What is the main idea or event of the story?

**SETTING** – Where and when did the story take place?

**CAST** – Who is involved in this story? Who should be warned?

**OPINION** – What is YOUR OPINION on the main issue or event?

### **Body paragraph**

WHAT is the most SIGNIFICANT DETAIL or EVENT in this story?

WHAT is the NEXT MOST IMPORTANT DETAIL?

WHAT is the LEAST MOST IMPORTANT DETAIL?

OR

WHAT happened first?

WHAT happened next?

WHAT happened at the END?

### **Conclusion**

WHAT is the TOPIC of the story and YOUR OPINION of the issue?

WHAT is the #1 REASON why YOUR OPINION is correct?

WHAT is the #2 REASON why YOUR OPINION is correct?

WHAT will happen in the FUTURE concerning this situation or event?