

STUDENT SUCCESS ESSAY WRITING SKILLS

9 Expository Essay Rhetorical Modes

BY ASHAN R. HAMPTON



High School & College Students

Explore the Writing Process
Learn to Write Good Paragraphs
Understand Complex Paragraphs

Student Success
Essay Writing
Skills

Expository Essay Techniques



Ashan R. Hampton



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Chapter One

The Writing Process



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What is the Writing Process?

Have you ever experienced writer's block? Perhaps you have a report or an essay due, but you just do not know where to start. Well, the steps of the writing process take you from a blank page to a written document. Instead of just staring at a computer screen and waiting for inspiration, sometimes you have to start small by jotting down words, phrases and finally, complete sentences. The six major steps of the writing process actually include several micro-activities that ease you into writing a full-length document. Although some resources cite more than six steps, the following are generally agreed upon in most reference books:

Steps of the Writing Process:

1. Exploring Ideas
2. Prewriting
3. Organizing
4. Writing
5. Revising
6. Producing (Final Copy)

Step One: Exploring Ideas

The first step in the writing process is to get clear about your subject matter. **What are you writing about?** What topic or ideas do you need to inform someone about? For example, if you need to write a job aid handout on how to access a school's new grading software system, then what is your subject? **The new grading software system.**

:: Consider the Subject ::

Now that you know the subject matter of the job aid handout, everything you write will focus on the new grading software system and nothing else. You should not mention another similar system or the old system, because those are irrelevant to the reader. Only include information that will help teachers learn to use the new grading software system. This micro-activity is called *considering your subject*.

:: Consider the Purpose ::

Why are you talking about this subject matter? In keeping with our example above, why are you writing about the new grading software system? Is your purpose simply to inform employees about this new system or to get them to access the system within a certain number of days?

Perhaps midterm grade reports will not be mailed, but will only be available in the new system. So, parents must access the system to download and print their children's report cards. In this scenario, **the purpose is to get parents to access the new grading software system.**

In general, **the purpose of your writing** will fall into one of three categories:

1. to inform
2. to persuade
3. to entertain

:: Consider the Audience ::

Who are you writing for? The audience consists of the people who will read your writing. Your audience will vary depending on the situation and the purpose of your writing. For example, who will more than likely read the job aid on accessing the new grading software system?

- Teachers
- School Employees
- Parents