

Informative / Explanatory Writing

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

An informative piece **TEACHES** the reader something. Strong informative writing has (1) a topic sentence, (2) facts and details that support the topic, (3) linking words (also, for example, in addition), and (4) a closing sentence.

PRACTICE

Pick or write the best answer for each item.

- Which sentence is the **BEST** topic sentence for an informative paragraph about sharks?
 - I think sharks are scary.
 - Sharks are fish that have lived in the ocean for millions of years.
 - Sharks should not be in zoos.
 - Sharks are my favorite animal.
- Which detail **BEST** supports an informative topic about how plants need water?
 - Most plants will die if they don't get water for a long time.
 - My favorite plant is a sunflower.
 - Plants are pretty in spring.
 - Some people don't like gardens.
- Which is a **GOOD** source for an informative piece?
 - a chapter book of fairy tales
 - a science magazine article
 - a movie about superheroes
 - a joke book
- Which linking word/phrase is used to **ADD MORE** information?
 - however
 - for example
 - but
 - instead



5. Which sentence does NOT belong in a paragraph about how a frog grows?
 - A. A frog begins as an egg in the water.
 - B. Tiny tadpoles hatch from the eggs.
 - C. I once caught a frog at camp.
 - D. Tadpoles slowly grow legs and lose their tails.
6. Pick a topic you know about. Write a TOPIC SENTENCE for an informative paragraph.

7. Now write TWO facts that support your topic above.

8. Which closing sentence BEST fits an informative paragraph about volcanoes?
 - A. Volcanoes are cool.
 - B. Volcanoes are powerful natural events that have shaped the Earth for a very long time.
 - C. I think volcanoes look like ice cream cones.
 - D. Volcanoes can be the best vacation.
9. What is the JOB of an informative piece?
 - A. to make readers laugh
 - B. to share facts and teach the reader about a topic
 - C. to convince readers to agree with the writer
 - D. to tell a make-believe story
10. Write a short PLAN for an informative piece. Include: topic, three facts, and a closing idea.



Answer Keys

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>2 <input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>3 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>4 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>5 <input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> | <p>6 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p> <p>7 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p> <p>8 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>9 <input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D</p> <p>10 <input type="text" value="See below"/></p> |
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| Explanations | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. B | A topic sentence states a fact-based focus. A, C, D are opinions, not informative topics. |
| 2. A | Plants needing water is a fact connected to the topic. The others are opinions or off-topic. |
| 3. B | Nonfiction sources match informative writing. The others are fiction or entertainment. |
| 4. B | “For example” adds info. However, but, instead all signal contrast or different paths. |
| 5. C | C is a personal story (a narrative). The others are factual steps that fit informative writing. |
| 6. | Answer: Example: The honeybee is an insect that does a very big job for plants and people. Any clear topic sentence about a real, fact-based subject. |
| 7. | Answer: Example: 1) Bees gather nectar from flowers. 2) Bees turn nectar into honey inside their hive. Two facts that fit the topic. |
| 8. B | A closing wraps up the topic with a strong fact-based statement. A is vague; C is silly; D is an opinion. |
| 9. B | Informative = teaching with facts. The others belong to humor, opinion, and narrative writing. |
| 10. | Answer: Example: Topic — bald eagles. Facts — (1) they are large birds of prey, (2) they have white feathers on their head, (3) they live near big lakes. Closing — bald eagles are an amazing American bird. Any clear plan with a topic, three facts, and a closing idea. |



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