

# 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.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



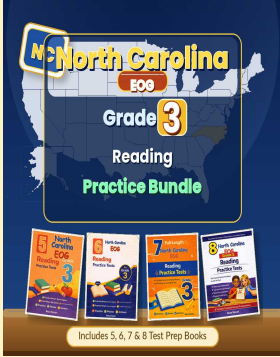
# Answer Keys

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| Explanations |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>1. B</b>  | A topic sentence states a fact-based focus. A, C, D are opinions, not informative topics.  |
| <b>2. A</b>  | Plants needing water is a fact connected to the topic. The others are opinions or off-topic.   |
| <b>3. B</b>  | Nonfiction sources match informative writing. The others are fiction or entertainment.   |
| <b>4. B</b>  | “For example” adds info. However, but, instead all signal contrast or different paths.   |
| <b>5. C</b>  | C is a personal story (a narrative). The others are factual steps that fit informative writing.  |
| <b>6.</b>    | <b>Answer:</b> 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.   |
| <b>7.</b>    | <b>Answer:</b> Example: 1) Bees gather nectar from flowers. 2) Bees turn nectar into honey inside their hive. Two facts that fit the topic.  |
| <b>8. B</b>  | A closing wraps up the topic with a strong fact-based statement. A is vague; C is silly; D is an opinion.  |
| <b>9. B</b>  | Informative = teaching with facts. The others belong to humor, opinion, and narrative writing.   |
| <b>10.</b>   | <b>Answer:</b> 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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