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.

1. Which sentence is the BEST topic sentence for an informative paragraph about sharks?

- **A.** I think sharks are scary.
- **B.** Sharks are fish that have lived in the ocean for millions of years.
- **C.** Sharks should not be in zoos.
- **D.** Sharks are my favorite animal.

2. Which detail BEST supports an informative topic about how plants need water?

- **A.** Most plants will die if they don't get water for a long time.
- **B.** My favorite plant is a sunflower.
- **C.** Plants are pretty in spring.
- **D.** Some people don't like gardens.

3. Which is a GOOD source for an informative piece?

- **A.** a chapter book of fairy tales
- **B.** a science magazine article
- **C.** a movie about superheroes
- **D.** a joke book

4. Which linking word/phrase is used to ADD MORE information?

- **A.** however
- **B.** for example
- **C.** but
- **D.** 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

1	A	**B**	C	D	6	See below		
2	**A**	B	C	D	7	See below		
3	A	**B**	C	D	8	A	**B**	C	D
4	A	**B**	C	D	9	A	**B**	C	D
5	A	B	**C**	D	10	See below		

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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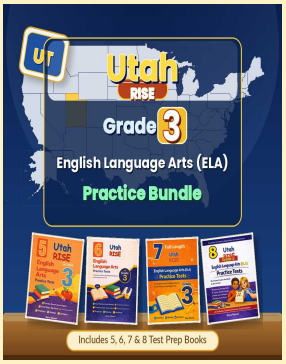

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