

# Informative / Explanatory Writing

Attempts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

## Effective Informational Writing:

- Introduces a topic; organizes ideas, concepts, and information
- Develop the topic with relevant facts, definition, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- Uses appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts
- Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- Establishes and maintains a formal style.

### Informative Writing

answers “What?” “How?” and “Why” questions.

#### Informative Writing Tasks:

- ✓ **Identify and understand the topic** - “Do I know exactly what the assignment is and what I am expected to do?”
  - ✓ **Develop a thesis** - “Which statement can I craft that clearly expresses the central focus of my written response?”
  - ✓ **Select and analyze relevant content** - “Which textual information would more effectively support my thesis?”
- Convey ideas clearly and precisely - “Can the reader follow my connections between the text and my thesis? Are my supporting points clear?”

### Tasks (cont)

- ✓ **Determine the best organizational structure** - “Which organizational structure would be the most effective for developing my thesis?”
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#### Organizational Structure:

Description  
Cause/ Effect  
Problem/ Solution  
Definition  
Classification  
Chronological  
Compare/Contrast

### Misconceptions

- Students think that the information should be presented using one structure. Select a structure that best fits the purpose and topic.
- Only one structure can be used to inform and/or explain the topic.
- The information must be presented as a five-paragraph essay.