DISCOVERING CHINA

The Writing Process
What is an **Expository Essay**?

**Expository /ɪkˈspæzɪˌtɔrē**
Adjective:

Intent to explain or describe something; fact-based, non-fiction.

An expository essay exposes the reader to a new topic with details, descriptions or explanations of a subject.
The Burger Five-Paragraph Model

Body Paragraph #1 (Patty #1):
Evidence & Analysis

Body Paragraph #2 (Patty #2):
Evidence & Analysis

Body Paragraph #3 (Patty #3):
Evidence & Analysis

Introductory Paragraph (Top Bun):
Hook, Supporting Sentences, Thesis

Conclusion (Bottom Bun):
Restate Thesis and Important Points

*Cheese = Transitions
Introduction

- **Hook**: opening statement that attracts the reader’s attention
- **Supporting Sentences**: links the hook to the thesis
- **Thesis Statement**: states the main idea of the essay (and answers major question)
  - Includes 3 supporting arguments
  - Goal: Explain to reader what he or she will learn in your essay
Introduction: Hook

- The first sentence should introduce the topic and grab your reader’s attention. (It should be broadly related to the topic of the essay).
- Types of Hooks
  - Interesting Fact of Statistic
  - Anecdote
  - Quotation
  - Rhetorical Question
  - Intriguing Statement
  - Statement of problem
Examples: Hooks

Identify the hook each example uses:

- **Example 1**: Hillary Rodham Clinton once said that “There cannot be true democracy unless women's voices are heard.”

- **Example 2**: "Spain, though hardly a literary juggernaut, translates more books in one year than the entire Arab world has in the past one thousand years."

- **Example 3**: “What would you do if you could play God for a day? That’s exactly what the leaders of Guam tried to answer.”
After the hook, writers need to gradually narrow the broad subject towards the thesis.

Gradually narrowing can:

- Provide background information
- Explain underlying information
- Introduce various layers of the subject
- Help transition from these more broad areas to the narrow thesis
Examples: Supporting Sentences

1. “Your time is limited, so don’t waste it living someone else’s life. In his Stanford commencement address, Steve Jobs explained how death was an important motivator that kept him focused and helped him to fearlessly innovate.”

2. "How often do you walk past a building and wonder what it looked like 100 years ago? Technology has allowed us to send a man to the moon, develop vaccines for ailments like polio, and now plumb the depths of history for visual clues to our architectural past."
Introduction: Thesis

• The thesis statement answers the major question and is the road map of the essay. It states the main idea of the essay.

• A thesis statement:
  • is an assertion, not a fact or observation
  • is narrow enough to write a focused essay
  • is broad enough to write at least 3 body paragraphs
  • includes the supporting arguments
At least 25 percent of the federal budget should be spent on helping upgrade businesses to clean technologies, researching renewable energy sources, and planting more trees in order to control or eliminate pollution.
Sample Introduction
Identifying the Hook

“I’d put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don’t have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that.”
With this statement, Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb, recognized the capacity of the sun as a virtually limitless source of energy in 1931. However, though a time when oil and coal have been completely used up could be getting closer, the full potential of solar power has yet to be harnessed by mankind. Televisions, refrigerators, air conditioners, and all the other appliances common in the developed world require vast amounts of electricity, meaning that the world’s most powerful countries still very much depend on fossil fuels. In Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and parts of South America, however, solar power is already changing the lives of people who have until now lived without a steady electricity supply. As low-cost solar panels become available, they are being used most effectively in some of the world’s poorest countries, which also happen to be some of the sunniest.
Solar power is improving people’s lives in developing countries by providing efficient light safely, linking them to the global mobile community and increasing their independence.
I’d put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don’t have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that.” With this statement, Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb, recognized the capacity of the sun as a virtually limitless source of energy in 1931. However, though a time when oil and coal have been completely used up could be getting closer, the full potential of solar power has yet to be harnessed by mankind. Televisions, refrigerators, air conditioners, and all the other appliances common in the developed world require vast amounts of electricity, meaning that the world’s most powerful countries still very much depend on fossil fuels. In Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and parts of South America, however, solar power is already changing the lives of people who have until now lived without a steady electricity supply. As low-cost solar panels become available, they are being used most effectively in some of the world’s poorest countries, which also happen to be some of the sunniest. Solar power is improving people’s lives in developing countries by providing efficient light safely, linking them to the global mobile community and increasing their independence.
The body of an essay consists of three paragraphs. Each body paragraph explains in detail one of the main ideas expressed in the thesis statement, and consists of four parts:

1. Topic Sentence
2. Factual Evidence
3. Analysis of Evidence
4. Transition Sentence
Body Paragraphs

1. **Topic Sentence**: Main idea of paragraph — Restate supporting argument from thesis.

2. **Factual Evidence**: Factual details to support argument.

3. **Analysis of Evidence**: Explain how details are significant and relate back to supporting argument.

4. **Transition Sentence**: Demonstrate how ideas lead into next paragraph.
Sample Body Paragraph
People either had to do without electricity, or were limited to using unreliable, low-intensity light from candles or kerosene lamps at night. Now, a new solar-powered lamp, when charged for eight hours in the bright sun, can provide up to a hundred hours of continuous, stable light ("Solar"). As a result, families are now able to extend and enrich their days by pursuing hobbies or crafts, and socializing longer into the evening with a brighter, more consistent light. Furthermore, solar power is clean and safe.
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Low-cost, solar-powered lamps provide a dependable and safe source of light to people in rural communities who often have no connection to a national electricity grid. People either had to do without electricity, or were limited to using unreliable, low-intensity light from candles or kerosene lamps at night. Now, a new solar-powered lamp, when charged for eight hours in the bright sun, can provide up to a hundred hours of continuous, stable light ("Solar"). As a result, families are now able to extend and enrich their days by pursuing hobbies or crafts, and socializing longer into the evening with a brighter, more consistent light. Furthermore, solar power is clean and safe. An Energy Resource Group article reports, “Health problems caused by toxic fumes from kerosene lamps are responsible for an estimated two million deaths annually” (Silver). In addition, both candles and kerosene are a fire hazard, especially in homes that tend to be predominantly made of wood. Solar-powered lighting removes these dangers from people’s homes because they emit no fumes and have no open flame, so people benefit from cleaner air and a reduced worry of fire. Solar power, therefore, has not only changed people’s lives, it has also made their lives safer.
Conclusion

1. Restate thesis
2. Summary of main ideas: summarize findings and reiterate important points
3. Final Thought: demonstrate significance of arguments

*Note: Do not introduce new ideas in the conclusion*
Sample Conclusion
In summary, solar power is making a significant difference to the lives of people in the developing world. By providing safe, clean, and efficient light, it is removing dangers from people’s homes while brightening their evenings. In addition, the ability to charge a cell phone allows people to communicate with the world and grow their businesses. The increased time and money available give people the means to take control of their lives and build for the future. The evidence certainly shows that in parts of the world where there is abundant sunlight, harnessing solar energy can be a key to improving the lives of many people.
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An Important Reminder

Remember Spongebob?

- Don’t procrastinate!