

# Writing an EXPOSITORY Context Piece

Unit 3 English  
AOS 2 - Creating and  
Presenting

## STYLE AND PURPOSE: Expository – to inform or explain

FORM	AUDIENCE	LANGUAGE
Essay	Depends on the context – usually educated adult readers	Authoritative, moderate: usually in third person, but reflective essays can use first-person ‘I’
News Story	Newspaper or magazine readers	Detached tone for objective account; third person narrative voice
Research Piece	Readers with a special interest or knowledge	Formal; serious; specialised vocabulary
Biography and autobiography	Readers with a special interest in the subject	Depends on subject and audience – usually formal but not specialised
Personal letter	Usually one reader well known to the writer	Personal tone; descriptive

Expository writing style explains or informs the reader about a particular topic.

It is mostly associated with nonfiction forms, from factual reporting in newspapers through to personal reminiscence. However, it can also be used in fiction (eg: a letter from one character to another).

Expository writing can include:

- Narration and description
- Reasoning, argument, persuasion
- Definitions and instructions

**Clarity** is of the utmost importance, so **logical organisation** is essential.

## ESSAY STRUCTURE

If you write an essay as a Context response, aim to write five to seven paragraphs using the structure below:

INTRODUCTION

BODY PARAGRAPH

CONCLUSION

*Note: Most expository essays do not try to persuade the audience to agree with the writer's viewpoint. An informative expository essay simply conveys information, and an analytical or reflective expository essay presents the writer's viewpoint. On the other hand, a persuasive expository essay presents the writer's viewpoint **and** tries to persuade the audience to agree with it.*

## INCORPORATING IDEAS FROM A SELECTED TEXT

Some ways to incorporate ideas and arguments from your texts in expository writing pieces are:

- **Compare and contrast** – is the text's viewpoint the same or different from the prompt's viewpoint? Explore similarities and/or differences in your body paragraphs.
- **Focus on one key idea** – how does the text's treatment of this idea further your discussion of the topic? In one or two paragraphs show *how* this idea is explored in the text.
- **Examine a key scene and/or character** – can you show a close knowledge of the text by linking a key scene or character/s to a key idea? In one or two paragraphs explain *how* this idea is presented through a key scene and/or character/s.

## KEYS TO EFFECTIVE EXPOSITORY WRITING

- Write clearly
- Use a clear and logical structure
- Thoroughly explain the different ideas or arguments
- Emphasise reason rather than emotion
- Consider different perspectives and viewpoints

# EXPOSITORY WRITING PRACTICE

Using the prompt below (or another prompt of your choosing), write the opening paragraphs of an **expository essay**. (In an assessed task, you would write 3 to 5 body paragraphs and a conclusion)

**Prompt:** *Science can provide no better description of reality than can art or religion.*

**Introduction:** To engage your audience, begin with a personal memory of a place or time that shows your perspective on the prompt.

*I recall*

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Now include a comment that sums up your point of view

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Next, acknowledge the opposing view and why you reject it

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Finally, state the ideas/arguments you will be drawing on to support your position.

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**Body Paragraph 1:** Write a topic sentence that clearly states an idea/argument that supports your contention and is drawn from your selected text. In dot points, comment on characters, scenes or situations that illustrate or explore this idea/argument.

Topic sentence:

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**Body Paragraph 2:** Write a topic sentence that links the ideas of the previous paragraph with your own experience. In dot points, comment on aspects of your experience that illustrate or explore these ideas.

Topic sentence:

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**Body Paragraph 3:** Write a topic sentence that reflects on alternative views. In dot points, note the ideas/arguments from your text and from other sources that have led you to reject these alternatives.

Topic sentence:

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**Conclusion:** Write a sentence which summarises the main ideas in your written piece. In dot points, not the main ideas/arguments you have used in your body paragraphs to express your ideas.

Concluding statement:

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