Expository Essay

When responding to an expository, or informative, prompt, use what you've learned from your reading, writing your research report, and studying the rubric on page 962. Use the steps below to develop a response to the following prompt.

Writing Prompt

Being respected is a quality that most of us would like to earn. In an essay, explain how a person gains the respect of others. Be sure to use supporting evidence to back up your points. You may use examples from your own experience or from people you have observed.

Study the Prompt

Begin by reading the prompt carefully. Circle or underline key words: *explain*, *respect*, *earn*, and *quality*. Your purpose is to explain how you think a person earns the respect of other people. What have you observed or experienced that leads to respect? Make a list of actions or aspects that you can illustrate with examples. **Tip:** *Spend about five minutes studying the prompt.*

Plan Your Response

Review your list and be sure that you have specific examples for the actions or aspects listed. Choose two to four aspects or actions that you can explain with examples. "Always sticks with me" can become a specific supporting detail if you clarify what the person did to demonstrate loyalty and earn respect.

Look at your list of points. What do these points have in common? Think about a common idea that you can use to connect your ideas about how respect is earned. That idea becomes the **thesis statement** you will explain in your essay. **Tip:** *Spend about ten minutes planning your response.*

Respond to the Prompt

Using your thesis and your notes, draft your essay. Follow these guidelines:

- Begin your essay with an introduction that catches your reader's attention and includes your thesis.
- The body of the essay should address each aspect or action in a logical order, possibly ending with the point you consider most important. Be sure to support or explain each point with specific examples.
- In the conclusion, restate your thesis and reflect on the way a person earns respect. **Tip:** *Spend about twenty minutes writing your draft.*

Improve Your Response

Revising Go back to the key aspects of the prompt. Does your essay explain how you think a person earns respect? Have you used specific examples? Are the aspects and actions and your thesis connected?

Proofreading Take a few minutes to proofread to correct errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Make sure your edits are neat and your paper is legible.

Checking Your Final Copy Before you turn your paper in, read it one more time to catch any errors you may have missed and to make any finishing touches. Taking this one extra step ill help you to turn in your best work. **Tip:** *Save five or ten minutes to improve your paper.*

Differentiating Instruction

English-Language Learners

Make sure students are familiar with the terms they need to know in order to complete the assignment. Have students work in small groups to look up and discuss the meanings of the words *explain, respect, earn,* and *quality.* Tell students to use the correct meanings of the multiple-meaning word *respect*.

Writers Gaining Proficiency

Encourage students to use a T-chart to help them plan their responses. On the left side of the T-chart, students should list the actions or aspects they have observed that lead to respect. On the right side of the chart, students should list specific examples that illustrate each action or aspect.

Standards Focus

Objectives

Students will

- write expository essays
- provide information and ideas to support a thesis

Direct Teach

Guided Practice

Study the Prompt

Before students begin writing, encourage them to answer the following questions:

1. What is my time limit?
2. What are the key skills assessed in the scoring rubric?
3. Who is my audience?
4. What is my purpose?

Plan Your Response

Tell students that the scoring rubric emphasizes the importance of focusing on a clear thesis. Remind students that their thesis statements should identify their topics. Also, they should state ideas about the topics that can be supported with specific examples.

Improve Your Response

Make sure students understand that the rubric emphasizes the importance of exhibiting a mature control of written language. Remind them to set aside time to revise drafts for grammar, usage, spelling, and style.

Assess

Use the rubric on p. 962 to assess students' essays.