

Exposition Structure



Title

An exposition has a title. The title will state the topic. It will often be dramatic or pose a question to the reader.

Look at the titles below. Which ones are good titles for expositions? Click on the boxes to reveal the answers.

How to reverse the waste cycle



Don't pollute our rivers



The Fishing Champion



Teachers are terrific



There's an alien in my bedroom!



Exposition Structure

2

Introduction

Expositions start with an introduction. It is a clear and forceful statement that gives the author's opinion on the topic. There may also be a summary of some of the important arguments that will follow.

Which of the sentences below would be the best opening statement for an exposition? Click on the boxes to reveal the answers.

Have you ever tried to skip or run with only one leg? Most people would find it very difficult. Imagine then trying to ski down a steep slope with only one leg like Michael Milton.



As most people are aware, giants are not the friendliest of creatures. So when they find that one of their own has a warm and gentle side, they take it as an insult.



When are we humans going to accept responsibility for the environment and for the survival of animal species? It saddens me to think about what we have done in our short time on this planet.



Recently a group of activists has proposed a change to our current focus of transportation. Their proposal is ridiculous! Bus and rail will never be able to withstand the constant commuter pressures in the area.



At the time of British colonization, there were approximately 300 different Aboriginal language groups living in mainland Australia and Tasmania.



Exposition Structure

3

Series of Paragraphs

After the introduction, there are a series of paragraphs that present arguments and reasons to support the writer's point of view. These arguments are to convince the reader to agree with the writer's point of view.

- The arguments need to be clear and to the point. Stay on the topic.
- Think carefully about which arguments to use – some are stronger than others. Only use the most effective.
- Support your arguments with evidence, tables, visual images or quotes from experts.
- Finally, don't use words that are too general and vague – be very specific. It makes your ideas more believable.
- Give the reader some background information so they can really understand the issue.
- Begin and end your exposition with strong arguments. If you have any weaker arguments, leave them out, or combine them with similar topics or issues to make them as useful as possible.



Exposition Structure



Series of Paragraphs

Read through the following paragraphs and underline the argument and reasons in different colors.

Reveal:

We are all too aware of what has happened to the natural and human landscapes of Australia over the past 200 years of European settlement. The environment has been drastically altered and often damaged. Countless animal species have become extinct, amongst them the Thylacine, and many others are critically endangered (such as the Bilby). Is this what we want to have happen again?

The school hat is a sensible design. It will protect your face and the back of your neck. It has the school emblem on it, is in the school colors and is a part of your school uniform. It is attractive and useful and it must be worn.

Furthermore, wild animals are killed every day so that unscrupulous people can make money. Animals such as elephants are killed because people use their tusks to make jewelery. Animals such as tigers are killed for their skins. Unless humans are educated not to purchase such tainted products, these animals will become extinct.



Exposition Structure

4

Conclusion

Expositions have a short conclusion. It is a final statement that restates the position of the writer and sums up the main arguments. Often the writer will ask for some action to take place.

Can you think of some effective conclusions for exposition texts?

-
-
-

Click on the clouds below to find some conclusions that have been done for you.

The area is too fragile to stand up to this development.

Join an organization such as these to fight to save the whales.

Any other decision would mean that our efforts have been wasted.

The community must act now!

A decision to ban these menacing contraptions will lead to a safer environment for us all.



Exposition Structure

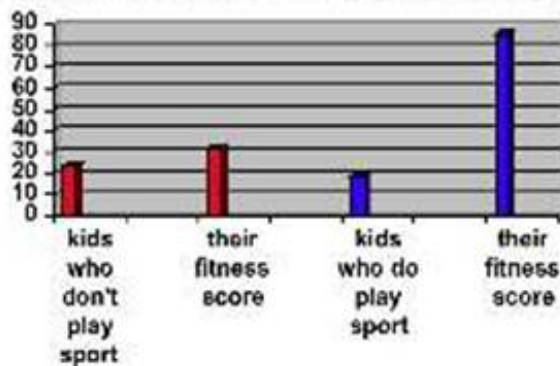
5

Visual Elements

To make your exposition more effective, use pictures, statistics, tables, charts or other visual images to support your arguments.

For example:

Sport Participation and Fitness Levels 2012



Bike helmets save lives.

