Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_ BB O C

**Informational Essay**

Informative essays can sometimes be one of the most challenging of all writing assignments, because you have to study and find facts about your topic that you can’t fake! Remember it is your job to act as a teacher, and help the reader learn about your topic. Don’t assume the reader knows anything about your topic. Add a lot of facts and details so your essay will teach me something new as well as being interesting to read.

**Before Starting**

Decide on a topic that you think is important and that your readers could benefit from knowing more about. Don’t just pick *Soccer,* maybe be more specific. Try *the history of the sport,* or *the different positions played.* Research your topic. Do not tell me just things that you believe to be true**. Use the internet or books from the library to provide facts about your topic**. Making a list all the questions you have about your topic, along with all the things you think you know about it, and any personal experiences will help you figure out the types of things you will need to research.

Essay Topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Questions**  **1)**  **2)**  **3)**  **4)**  **5)** | **Answers (using researched facts) to your questions.**  **1)**  **2)**  **3)**  **4)**  **5)** |

**Paragraph 1)** Your beginning sentence should tell your readers what they are going to learn about. We know that a sentence like “*You will be learning about the different positions in soccer are…”*  is pretty boring and lacks creativity and personal voice. Actually it sounds like a boring text book! Try to come up with a sentence that grabs the reader attention. Reading the sentence “*Some people who are not very familiar with the sport of Soccer are surprised to learn that a player can go years only learning one position on the team. Every player has a specific job to do, and players spend years learning how to perform their position so they can help their team win”* is a lot more enjoyable to read.

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**Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4** The body (or the main part) of your essay will include three paragraphs. Start each one by introducing your main facts, and then back it up with 3 to 6 detail sentences about that main idea. Remember to ONLY talk about the main idea of that paragraph.  All of your body paragraphs should follow the pattern of: introduce a topic, mention detailed facts, and use a closing statement. Sample transition words to use in your transition statements: *moreover, in fact, on the whole, furthermore, as a result, simply put, because of this reason, similarly, likewise, it follows that, naturally, by comparison, surely,* and *yet.*

1) Introduce the main Idea: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2) Introduce the main Idea: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3) Introduce the main Idea: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Conclusion.**

The final paragraph will summarize your main points and re-state your introduction sentence. Make sure this paragraph talks about what the reader has read but do not repeat specific examples. Don't bring up any new information or raise too many questions. This paragraph is meant to bring closure to the essay. A good way to close informative essays may be to challenge your reader to learn, or try something that was mentioned in your essay. Another good way to close this paragraph is to leave the reader with a question about the topic. “*Would you ever want to spend seven years learning how to be a goalie like me?”*

**Grading**

You will be graded on: Correct spelling, and Grammar. This essay needs to be 5 paragraphs long, 1 ½ -2 pages long. (If you are typing it, it must be 2 pages, double spaced, no larger than 12 font size and an easy to read font) Please include an introduction paragraph that introduces the essay and the 3 main details you are going to cover in your essay (6 sentences). The body of the essay must cover 3 researched facts about the main idea, and it needs to stay on topic throughout the whole paragraph (12 sentences). The Conclusion paragraph (6 sentences) restates everything that the reader has learned from the writing, and the writing needs to have enough details, and author’s personal voice in it so it reads easily and becomes interesting to the person reading it. The writer needs to show growth by providing proof that they used the internet or books to write this essay without COPY AND PASTING INFORMATION that are appropriate for a 6th grade writer.

This is just a beginning organization tool and before you submit your final draft you will need to edit it, re-read it, and add more details if necessary. When you re-read it pay close attention to how the sentences flow together. If it sounds like a robot is reading it, the facts and details are *choppy* and are not personal at all. You might find that your detail sentences are strong, but they don't stay on topic. Make sure your essay meets all the requirements above and you should receive full credit for your work.

*Scheduled Date for completion:*

* Monday April 12th