

# A Blog for Busy Teachers

FREE LANGUAGE-BASED TEACHING STRATEGIES

## Written Expression Templates

Whether students are learning at home or in person, expository writing exists across the curriculum . Below are some examples:

- **Social Studies Class** (enumerative, descriptive task): “List the three branches of U.S. government and describe their roles.”
- **Science Class** (compare/contrast task): “Compare the physical characteristics of a skate and a sting ray. Also, discuss their major structural differences.”
- **Math class** (cause/effect task): “If angle A were decreased by five degrees, explain how triangle ABC would no longer be equilateral. Be sure to mention all other angles and sides.”
- **Language Arts/Literature** (opinion/evaluative task): “Not many people in the book like T.J. What is your opinion of him and how he treats others?”

Explore the following basic templates to help students structure their responses to writing prompts across the curriculum.



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## Restate Answer Explain (RAE) format for answering answering questions in homework and tests

R: Restate/Repeat	A: Answer	E: Examples/Explanation
The first sentence of the response should restate the question and provide an answer to the question		The next three or four sentences should provide clear examples and elaboration to prove that the answer is correct

### Example:

1. Name three strengths of the South during the Civil War

R: Restate/Repeat	A: Answer	E: Examples/Explanation
Three strengths of the South during Civil War were excellent military leadership, strong morale of its citizens, and the ability to fight a defensive war of attrition		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Leadership → Military generals like Robert E. Lee</li><li>2. Morale → Citizens resented northern control</li><li>3. Defensive war → Didn't have to conquer any land</li></ol>

### Sample answer using the format:

Three strengths of the South in the Civil War were excellent military leadership, strong moral of its citizens, and the ability to fight a defensive war of attrition. Excellent military leadership included generals like Robert E. Lee. The strong morale of its citizens had been built up for years because of Northern control; in many ways southerners were desperate because they were fighting for their way of life. The ability to fight a defensive war of attrition benefited the South because they did not have to conquer Northern land, only defend their own.



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## Graphic Organizer for Basic Paragraph

**topic:**

**controlling idea:**

**details**



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## Template for Basic Paragraph

Topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detail sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detail sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detail sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Concluding sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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## Proofreading Checklist for Basic Paragraph

1. Underline your topic sentence.
2. Number your detail sentences.
3. Circle any transitional words or phrases used. You should have two.
4. Put brackets { } around any sentences that you think might be run-ons or fragments.
5. Underline your concluding sentence. Does it...
  - a. restate the main idea?
  - b. draw a conclusion?
  - c. state an opinion?
  - d. summarize the information?
6. Read your paragraph to someone or have someone read it to you and initial the box. Correct any mistakes you hear.



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## Another Proofreading Checklist

**C**apitalization – circle all of your capital letters at the beginning of each sentence and for proper nouns

**O**ral Reading – read your composition out loud or have someone else read it to you

**P**unctuation – circle all your end punctuation

**S**pelling – highlight any words that you think may be spelled incorrectly

- Underline the topic sentence in your paragraph.
- Check to see that all sentences in your paragraph are complete sentences.
- Underline the concluding sentence in your paragraph.



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FREE LANGUAGE-BASED TEACHING STRATEGIES

## Graphic Organizer for Paragraph with Elaborations

<b>topic:</b>	
<b>controlling idea:</b>	
<b>details</b>	<b>elaborations</b>



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FREE LANGUAGE-BASED TEACHING STRATEGIES

## Template for Paragraph with Elaborations

Topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detail sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Elaboration sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detail sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Elaboration sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detail sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Elaboration sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Concluding sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





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FREE LANGUAGE-BASED TEACHING STRATEGIES

## Proofreading Checklist for Paragraph with Elaborations

1. Underline your topic sentence.
2. Highlight all your detail sentences in one color.
3. Highlight all your elaboration sentences using a different color.
4. Circle any transitional words or phrases used. You should have at least two.
5. Put brackets { } around any sentences that you think might be run-ons or fragments.
6. Underline your concluding sentence. Does it...
  - a. restate the main idea?
  - b. draw a conclusion?
  - c. state an opinion?
  - d. summarize the information?
7. Read your paragraph to someone or have someone read it to you and initial the box. Correct any mistakes you hear in this step.

