

English I Writing Expository Prompt

Read the following quotation.

"My philosophy is: If you can't have fun, there's no sense in doing it."

*-Paul Walker
American actor*

Some people enjoy spending their free time playing sports, going to the movies, or reading a good book. With the pressures of school, work, and personal responsibilities, it is important to maintain balance. What is your favorite thing to do to relax and have fun?

Write an essay explaining how and why it is important to maintain a balance in life.

Be sure to –

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling



**Expository Planning Organizer
Sample for Guided Writing**

Thesis statement: Although school and studies are a top priority in a student’s life, it is important to maintain a balance with leisure to make the most of everything experience.

Main Ideas of the Thesis	
First Main Idea	Supporting Details
Outside of school	Extracurricular activities/sports
	Job
	Volunteering
	Hobbies/leisure activities
	Chores/duties at home
Second Main Idea	
To maintain a balance, I stay organized	Prioritizing: activities that are valued more
	Organization: planning/schedule
	Weekly schedule
	Time taken for school work and studying
	Weekend schedule
Third Main Idea	
Balance ensures better experiences	Too much of a good thing can be bad
	Balance and organization help me enjoy school and my personal life.

Concluding Statement: With a busy school schedule and studying, one can often forget about other responsibilities and fun activities. It is important to prioritize and maintain organization to create a balanced life.

Planning Guide

Expository

- I. Introductory paragraph
 - A. Topic included in the thesis statement
 - B. Main ideas of the composition
- II. Body paragraphs
 - A. Main idea stated in a topic sentence*
 - B. Supporting detail**
 - 1. Examples
 - 2. Cause and effect
 - 3. Personal experiences
- III. Concluding paragraph
 - A. Thesis statement
 - B. Main ideas of the composition
 - C. General parting thought

* No set number of ideas or details

** Other elaboration methods may be equally effective.



**Planning Organizer
Expository**

Thesis statement

Main Ideas of the Thesis	
First Main Idea	Supporting Details
Second Main Idea	Supporting Details
Third Main Idea	Supporting Details

Concluding Statement



**Revision Checklist
Expository**

Introductory Paragraph				Concluding Paragraph
Thesis ____	Main Ideas			Thesis ____
Main Ideas 1. ____	1 st Idea ____ E ____ CE ____ PE ____ Other ____	2 nd Idea ____ E ____ CE ____ PE ____ Other ____	3 rd Idea ____ E ____ CE ____ PE ____ Other ____	Main Ideas ____
2. ____				Parting Thought ____
3. ____				

Introductory Paragraph

The thesis statement should be included in the introduction. The main ideas of the composition may be included in the introduction to help clarify the thesis.

Body Paragraphs

There is no set number of main ideas or paragraphs to include in the body of the composition.

Concluding Paragraph

Restate the thesis of the composition. Main ideas of the composition may be included in the concluding paragraph to help clarify thesis.

Elaboration Methods

- E – Examples
- CE – Cause and effect
- PE – Personal experience

Other methods of elaboration may be equally effective when used as supporting details.