

Expository Writing Prompt

Read the following sentences.

“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.” —*Nelson Mandela*

Think about scary situations.

Write an essay to explain whether or not it is important to overcome your fears.

Be sure to –

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

Planning Guide

Expository

I. Introductory paragraph

- A. Topic and controlling idea of the composition
- 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. Topic and controlling idea of the composition
- B. Main ideas of the composition
- C. General parting thought

* No set number of ideas or details

** Other elaboration methods may be equally effective.

Expository Planning Organizer

Sample for Guided Writing

Topic and Controlling Idea

Overcoming fear is like overcoming failure because it opens the gates of success.

Main Ideas	Supporting Details
First Main Idea	
Fear keeps you from action	Holds you back from what you really want
	Afraid to take steps toward a goal because you may fail
	No action means never moving forward
	Frozen in one place no matter how much you want something
	Won't ever win or be successful if you don't overcome the fear
Second Main Idea	
Personal experience where you took chance	Wanted to share ideas in class
	Scared no one would like my idea
	Thought about the positive side of me sharing my ideas out loud- such as: other kids would learn, may earn respect from teacher, I may learn
	Things turned out okay and no one laughed

Concluding Statement

The emotions of facing a fear may be unpleasant and hold you back, but if you're able to think about your feelings in a positive light once it's happened (or as they're happening), then you're on the right track to success with anything.

I. Introduction

CI - Overcoming fear is like overcoming failure because it opens the gates of success.

II. Body

MI - Fear keeps you from action

- Holds you back from what you really want
- Afraid to take steps toward a goal because you may fail
- No action means never moving forward
- Frozen in one place no matter how much you want something
- Won't ever win or be successful if you don't overcome the fear

MI - Personal experience where you took chance

- Wanted to share ideas in class
- Scared no one would like my idea
- Thought about the positive side of me sharing my ideas out loud - Such as: other kids would learn, may earn respect from teacher, I may learn
- Things turned out okay and no one laughed

III. Closing

CI and PT - The emotions of facing a fear may be unpleasant and hold you back, but if you're able to think about your feelings in a positive light once it's happened (or as they're happening), then you're on the right track to success with anything.

Collaborative Interactive Writing Activity

Teacher directions - cut apart each part of the writing plan.

- Provide each group a part of the essay.
- Draft each paragraph using the plan provided.



Add a meaningful hook or lead to grab your reader's attention. Use this controlling idea or develop one with a similar idea.

I.

Introduction

CI - Overcoming fear is like overcoming failure because it opens the gates of success.

Write a topic sentence with the MI. Then add sentences with the supporting details.

II. Body

MI - Fear keeps you from action

- Holds you back from what you really want
- Afraid to take steps toward a goal because you may fail
- No action means never moving forward
- Frozen in one place no matter how much you want something
- Won't ever win or be successful if you don't overcome the fear

- You may add other supporting details. Use detail moves to make your writing interesting and engaging.

Write a topic sentence with the MI. Then add sentences with the supporting details.

MI - Personal experience where you took chance

- Wanted to share ideas in class
- Scared no one would like my idea
- Thought about the positive side of me sharing my ideas out loud - Such as: other kids would learn, may earn respect from teacher, I may learn
- Things turned out okay and no one laughed

- You may add other supporting details. Use detail moves to make your writing interesting and engaging.

Use the restated controlling idea or develop one with fresh new words.

III. Closing

Use the parting thought or develop a new one to leave your audience with a thoughtful closing.

CI and PT - The emotions of facing a fear may be unpleasant and hold you back, but if you're able to think about your feelings in a positive light once it's happened (or as they're happening), then you're on the right track to success with anything.

Planning Organizer Expository

Controlling Idea _____

Main Ideas	Supporting Details
First Main Idea	
Second Main Idea	
Third Main Idea	

Concluding Statement

Revision Checklist Expository

Introductory Paragraph				Concluding Paragraph
Topic _____	Main Ideas			Topic _____
Controlling Idea _____	1 st Idea _____ E_____ CE_____ PE_____ Other_____	2 nd Idea_____ E_____ CE_____ PE_____ Other_____	3 rd Idea_____ E_____ CE_____ PE_____ Other_____	Controlling Idea _____
Main Ideas 1. _____				Main Ideas _____
2. _____				Parting Thought _____
3. _____				

Sentence Variations

Compound Sentence with correct comma usage before the FANBOYS _____

Complex Sentences with correct comma, based on subordinate conjunction placement

BONUS! Compound Complex Sentences with correct comma usage _____

Detail Sentence Leads – Author’s Craft: Place checkmarks next to the detail leads.

Details that Describe	Action Details	Persuasive Details	Details that Inform	Dialogue Details
State the obvious	Act and think	If...then	State the opposite	“Dialogue” with tags
Just like that	But, why???	Take the opposite side	What’s Next?	Instead of <i>said</i>
Action, action, action clues	Numbers date/time/value	Good insightful question(s)	High Interest – what’s next	Talking and thinking
In the middle	Location transition	Imagine this...	Positive sweet with a negative sour	Action and words
Zoom in & describe	Adverb comma	It’s complicated and complex	For the first time ever..	Tell me about it
Intentional repetition	<i>ings</i> phrases present participles	Now...Then	Define it	
Pop culture	Eds phrases	We... statements of unity	AKA – proper nouns	
Personification people characteristics	Onomatopoeia (sound)	Call to action	In other words (restatement)	
Set the stage		Hyperbole exaggerate!	Important or significant	
I, we, they think			Love, love, love	
			Historical reference	




Make writing meaningful before the prompt.

These ideas make this prompt fun!

Informal Writing Activity Springboard: Ask students to work in cooperative groups to make a list of some of the things they fear the most. Allow time for kids to share common fears. Be sure to share the things you fear most too!


Personal Fears




Small Fears (almost silly to admit)

Medium Size Fears

BIG FEARS



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