

## Expository Writing Prompt

**Read** the following information.

“The willingness of America’s veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude.”

Jeff Miller

**Think** about how you show your appreciation for veterans.

**Write** an essay explaining something you can do to show your appreciation to America’s verteran heroes.

Be sure to –

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

## Expository Planning Organizer Sample for Guided Writing

### Controlling Idea

Kids can show appreciation by saying “Thank you” to our military men and women on Veteran’s Day.

| Main Ideas about the Central Idea           |  |
|---|--|
| First Main Idea                             | Supporting Details   |
| I can say, “Thank you” in many ways.        | Say the words, “Thank you for serving our country.”                          |
|   | Shake their hand as I say thank you  |
|   | At a parade, yell out “Thank you” and wave to marching military bands        |
|   | Will show our Veteran’s that kids care                                       |
| Second Main Idea                            |  |
| My words and actions can show my gratitude. | Always show my respect with my actions and words                             |
|   | Open doors and say, “Thank you for your service.”                            |
|   | Give them a salute if they are in uniform                                    |
|   | Listen to one of their stories about where they have served, then thank them |
|   | <i>(teachers add your own ideas)</i>   |

### Concluding Statement

There are many things I can do to show my appreciation to America’s heroes. Our veterans make sacrifices for us. It is a privilege to honor our great American heroes.

## I. Introduction

(hook)

CI - Kids can show appreciation by saying "Thank you" to our military men and women on Veteran's Day.

## II. Body

MI - Say, "Thank you" in many ways.

- Say the words, "Thank you for serving our country."
- Shake their hand as I say thank you
- At a parade, yell out "Thank you" and wave to marching military bands
- Will show our Veteran's that kids care

MI - Words and actions show gratitude.

- Always show my respect with actions and words
- Open doors and say "Thank you for your service"
- Give them a salute if they are in uniform
- Listen to one of their stories about where they have served, then thank them
- (add your own ideas)

## III. Closing

CI and PT - There are many things I can do to show my appreciation to America's heroes. Our veterans make sacrifices for us. It is a privilege to honor our great American heroes.

# 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 central idea or develop one with a similar idea.

## I. Introduction

CI - Kids can show appreciation by saying "Thank you" to our military men and women on Veteran's Day.

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

## II. Body

MI - Say, "Thank you" in many ways

- Say the words, "Thank you for serving our country."
- Shake their hand as I say thank you
- At a parade, yell out "Thank you" and wave to marching military bands
- Will show our Veteran's that kids care

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

MI - Words and actions show gratitude.

- Always show my respect with actions and words
- Open doors and say "Thank you for your service"
- Give them a salute if they are in uniform
- Listen to one of their stories about where they have served, then thank them
- (teachers add your own ideas)

Use the restated central idea or develop one with fresh new words. Use the parting thought or develop a new one to leave your audience with a thoughtful closing.

## III. Closing

CI and PT - There are many things I can do to show my appreciation to America's heroes. Our veterans make sacrifices for us. It is a privilege to honor our great American heroes.

## **Collaborative Interactive Writing Activity**

### **Mentor Text for “Hooks” and “Parting Thoughts”**

**Instructional option for interactive writing:** Print and distribute to any groups assigned to write the introduction or closing paragraphs in collaborative writing. Students read and choose one hook to combine with the central idea. Alternate parting thoughts are also provided for groups assigned to write the closing paragraph. As always, students may add or change any words.

Hook or Lead Option #1 – Truism with pop culture Reference

Sometimes when you are a little kid, you may think as Superman or Batman as a hero. But real heroes can be seen every day.

Hook or Lead Option #2 – One-word fragments.

Brave. Strong. American. These are words that represent our military heroes.

Hook or Lead Option #3 – Insightful questions with an obvious answer.

Who can we ALL appreciate for their dedication and service? Who has a special holiday dedicated to their love of country? Our beloved Veterans!

Parting Thought #1 –

For the REAL heroes in our country, we should find any way we can to say, “Thank you! You are much appreciated!”

Parting Thought #2 –

Brave. Strong. American. These are words that represent our Veterans. It is a privilege to honor our everyday heroes.

## 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.

# Planning Organizer

## Expository

### Topic and Controlling Idea

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| Main Ideas about the Controlling Idea |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| First Main Idea                       | Supporting Details |
|                                       |                    |
|                                       |                    |
|                                       |                    |
|                                       |                    |
| Second Main Idea                      | Supporting Details |
|                                       |                    |
|                                       |                    |
|                                       |                    |
|                                       |                    |
| Third Main Idea                       | Supporting Details |
|                                       |                    |
|                                       |                    |
|                                       |                    |
|                                       |                    |

### Concluding Statement

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## Revision Checklist Expository

|                        |                           |                           |                           |                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Introductory Paragraph |                           |                           |                           | Concluding Paragraph  |
| Topic ____             | Main Ideas                |                           |                           | Topic ____            |
| Controlling Idea ____  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Idea ____ | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Idea ____ | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Idea ____ | Controlling Idea ____ |
| Main Ideas 1. ____     | E ____                    | E ____                    | E ____                    | Main Ideas ____       |
| 2. ____                | CE ____                   | CE ____                   | CE ____                   | Parting Thought ____  |
| 3. ____                | PE ____                   | PE ____                   | PE ____                   |                       |
|                        | Other ____                | Other ____                | Other ____                |                       |

### 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.  
This idea makes this prompt fun!

**Informal Writing Activity Springboard:** Create this simple and meaningful door or wall decoration. See this blog post for the complete explanation of this writing activity. Discuss the different ways all kids can show their appreciation to our veteran's. Later, have students select one of the ideas to use the central idea of their independent writing. Share the essays with a Veteran or mail them to a Veteran's organization.

<http://msbeckysclassroom.blogspot.com/2011/11/veterans-day-activities.html>

