

English I Writing Expository Prompt

Read the following quotation.

"I believe in love. I believe in good stories. I play really hard on the weekends because I like to have those stories. My wife and I go off and do craziness all the time. We're just like, 'What can we go get into this weekend?' Then we have other ones where we just sit and do nothing, and then we have work that we do. It's all memories."

- Channing Tatum

American actor, film producer, dancer, and model

In today's world, there are many activities from which to choose. Sometimes these activities make memories that may last a lifetime.

Write an essay explaining why maintaining a balanced life with some planning and some spontaneity is a good idea.

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: Not every situation can or should be controlled; spontaneity is just as important as good planning for good health.

Main Ideas of the Thesis	
First Main Idea	Supporting Details
In certain situations, planning can be a good idea.	School activities
	Work
	Travel
	Special occasions (birthdays, weddings, etc.)
	Planning eliminates stress
Second Main Idea	
In many situations, being spontaneous can be healthy.	Friends
	Road trips
	Meet new people
	Makes life more fun and can be a good thing
Third Main Idea	
Find a balance between the two	Prioritize
	Plan for the most important things
	Be spontaneous for the fun things

Concluding Statements: There are some times in life that require one to consider things seriously. Being spontaneous is healthy as well. After all, everyone should have a little fun every once in a while.

I. Introduction

Thesis - Not every situation can or should be controlled; spontaneity is just as important as good planning for good health.

II. Body

MI - In certain situations, planning can be a good idea.

- School activities
- Work
- Travel
- Special occasions (birthdays, weddings, etc.)
- Planning eliminates stress

MI - In many situations, being spontaneous can be healthy.

- Friends
- Road trips
- Meet new people
- Makes life more fun and can be a good thing

MI - Find a balance between the two

- Prioritize
- Plan for the most important things
- Be spontaneous for the fun things

III. Closing

Thesis and PT - There are some times in life that require one to consider things seriously. Being spontaneous is healthy as well. After all, everyone should have a little fun every once in a while.

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 thesis or develop one with a similar idea.

I. Introduction

Thesis - Not every situation can or should be controlled; spontaneity is just as important as good planning for good health.

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

II. Body

MI - In certain situations, planning can be a good idea.

- School activities
- Work
- Travel
- Special occasions (birthdays, weddings, etc.)
- Planning eliminates stress

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

MI - In many situations, being spontaneous can be healthy.

- Friends
- Road trips
- Meet new people
- Makes life more fun and can be a good thing

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

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

MI – Find a balance between the two

- Prioritize
- Plan for the most important things
- Be spontaneous for the fun things

Use the restated thesis 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

Thesis and PT – There are some times in life that require one to consider things seriously. Being spontaneous is healthy as well. After all, everyone should have a little fun every once in a while.

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		
Topic _____	Main Ideas			Topic _____		
Thesis _____	1 st Idea _____ E_____	2 nd Idea_____	3 rd Idea_____	Thesis _____		
Main Ideas 1. _____				Main Ideas _____		
2. _____				CE_____	CE_____	Parting Thought _____
3. _____				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	

