

English I Writing Expository Prompt

Read the following quotation.

“A college degree is the key to realizing the American dream, well worth the financial sacrifice because it is supposed to open the door to a world of opportunity.”

–Dan Rather

American journalist and former news anchor for the CBS Evening News

Deciding on the right college or graduation plan is an important decision. Some use location, class size and costs to determine where to pursue their studies or work after high school. What factors should you consider when choosing the right path for you?

Write an essay explaining important factors when choosing the right college or post-secondary plan.

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: When choosing one’s graduation plans, there are schooling and work options to explore before making a decision.

Main Ideas of the Thesis	
First Main Idea	Supporting Details
College	Talking to a counselor
	Attending college fairs
	Considering factors such as: type of institution, degrees offered, distance from home, quality of education, extracurricular activities offered, expenses, and college size
	Taking college visits
	Asking alumni about their experiences
Second Main Idea	
Work or Trade	Finding employment or enlisting in the military can be a better option for some.
	Talking to a recruiter
	Creating a resume
	Attending job fairs
	Taking an aptitude test
Third Main Idea	

Concluding Statements: The year before graduation is often a stressful, yet exciting time for most students. There are many steps a student can take to make the experience easier. With many helpful resources out there, you might even say that choosing is so easy, even a caveman can do it!

I. Introduction

Thesis – When choosing one's graduation plans, there are schooling and work options to explore before making a decision.

II. Body

MI – College

- Talking to a counselor
- Attending college fairs
- Considering factors such as: type of institution, degrees offered, distance from home, quality of education, extracurricular activities offered, expenses, and college size
- Taking college visits
- Asking alumni about their experiences

MI – Work or trade

- Finding employment or enlisting in the military can be a better option for some.
- Talking to a recruiter
- Creating a resume
- Attending job fairs
- Taking an aptitude test

III. Closing

Thesis and PT – The year before graduation is often a stressful, yet exciting time for most students. There are many steps a student can take to make the experience easier. With many helpful resources out there, you might even say that choosing is so easy, even a caveman can do it!

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 - When choosing one's graduation plans, there are schooling and work options to explore before making a decision.

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

II. Body

MI - College

- Talking to a counselor
- Attending college fairs
- Considering factors such as: type of institution, degrees offered, distance from home, quality of education, extracurricular activities offered, expenses, and college size
- Taking college visits
- Asking alumni about their experiences

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

MI - Work or trade

- Finding employment or enlisting in the military can be a better option for some.
- Talking to a recruiter
- Creating a resume
- Attending job fairs
- Taking an aptitude test

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 - The year before graduation is often a stressful, yet exciting time for most students. There are many steps a student can take to make the experience easier. With many helpful resources out there, you might even say that choosing is so easy, even a caveman can do it!

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 _____				Thesis _____
Main Ideas 1. _____	1 st Idea _____	2 nd Idea _____	3 rd Idea _____	Main Ideas _____
2. _____	E _____	E _____	E _____	Parting Thought _____
3. _____	CE _____	CE _____	CE _____	
	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	

