

Expository Prompt

Read the following information.

Teachers often have small and large group activities for learning.

Think about the number of students that you work with during the school day.

Write an essay explaining whether it is better to work with a large or small group for your learning style.

Be sure to –

- clearly state your central 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

Central Idea

Working with a small group is better.

Main Ideas about the Central Idea	
First Main Idea	Supporting Details
Fewer distractions	Discipline problems
	Easy for me to lose focus
	Help each other stay on task
Second Main Idea	
Need help	Often need help
	Frustrating to wait
	My difficult subject is _____
Third Main Idea	
Teacher seems relaxed	Not rushed
	Time to help everyone
	Students learn better

Concluding Statement

Smaller is better!

I. Introduction

(hook)

CI - Working with a small group is better.

II. Body

MI - Fewer distractions

- Discipline problems
- Easy for me to lose focus
- Help each other stay on task

MI - Need help

- Often need help
- Frustrating to wait
- My difficult subject is _____

MI - Teacher seems relaxed

- Not rushed
- Time to help everyone
- Students learn better

III. Closing

CI and PT - Smaller is better!

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

(hook)

CI - Working with a small group is better.

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

II. Body

MI - Fewer distractions

- Discipline problems
- Easy for me to lose focus
- Help each other stay on task

- 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 - Need help

- Often need help
- Frustrating to wait
- My difficult subject is _____

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

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

III. Closing

CI and PT - Smaller is better!

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

"Hook" Your Reader Author's Craft...



A mentor text activity

Directions: As a collaborative activity, have students read and choose one sample “hook” or “parting thought.” Students may choose to use the exact “hook” or “parting thought” as stated or may choose to change some of the words.

Hook #1

In school, kids are sometimes asked to work in small groups. Other times we are asked to work in large groups. It is never the same.

Hook #2

Sometimes it helps to have a group of friends to help you with a class assignment, and sometimes working in groups can be distracting.

Hook #3

For the tenth billion time it seems, my teacher has just announced, “Get into your groups!”

Parting Thought #1

Good or bad, we all must work in small and large groups at school.

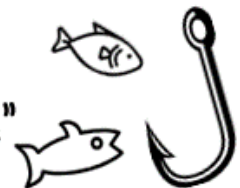
Parting Thought #2

Helpful or distracting? Every kid must decide for himself.

Parting Thought #3

Working with your friends is fun...but it can sometimes be hard. Either way, we must do it when the teacher yells, “Get into your groups!”

Beginning to end with “Parting Thoughts!”
Leave the reader wanting more!



Sample Essay

I will always remember how my 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Funnybone, would have fun activities in her classroom. She was the master of small group activities, and it always worked for me. Working with a small group is better for me.

First, there are fewer distractions. When you are in small group, it is harder for kids to get in trouble because there aren't as many kids with behavior problems to worry about. In a small group, kids get in trouble a lot less, even though friends are talking. Usually we are given some work, and we must work together to do the job. Working together for a small amount of time helps me keep focus instead of listening to a "loooooong" boring speech by the teacher (which seems to take hours). When we work together, we also help each other stay on task until we complete the work. If we have trouble with the work, the teacher is close by— ready to lend a hand.

Sometimes kids need help with small group work. When we work in small group, we can get the help we need right away because the teacher doesn't have to help 25 kids at one time. We don't have to wait for hours and hours to get help. For example, in social studies we often have a lot of maps, dates, and timelines in our projects. It's easy to get mixed up looking up all that information. When we work in groups, the teacher helps all of us find our way, and we learn better too.

So why is it a good idea to work in small groups? For me, it makes the work easier and gets me the help I need when I am confused. Smaller is better! If Mrs. Funnybone could be my teacher again, I would be in small group heaven!

Sample Essay

I will always remember how my 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Funnybone, would have many fun activities in her classroom. She was the master of small group activities, and it always worked for me. Working with a small group is better.

First, there are fewer distractions.

Sometimes kids need help with small group work.

So why is it a good idea to work in small groups? For me, it makes the work easier and gets me the help I need when I am confused. Smaller is better! If Mrs. Funnybone could be my teacher again, I would be in small group heaven!

Planning Guide

Expository

I. Introductory paragraph

- A. Topic and central 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 central 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 Central Idea _____

Main Ideas about the Central Idea	
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 ____
Central Idea ____	1 st Idea ____ E____ CE____ PE____ Other____	2 nd Idea____ E____ CE____ PE____ Other____	3 rd Idea____ E____ CE____ PE____ Other____	Central 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: Have students complete a large group activity. Then have students complete a small group activity. Discuss the benefit or challenges of both.

Example of a large group activity:

- Form one long line and make a wave.



- Example of a small group activity:

In small cooperative groups of four, compete to see which group can list 10 things that are blue.

After the small and large group activities, ask students to briefly state whether they think it was better to work in a large or small group. Later, this can be used as the central idea for this prompt.

