

## Expository Writing Prompt

**Read** the following quotation.

The famous American author, inventor and founding father Benjamin Franklin once coined the phrase, "A penny saved is a penny earned."

**Think** about saving money.

**Write** about an essay and explain why people save money.

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**

People save money to prepare for emergencies.

Main Ideas about the Central Idea	
First Main Idea	Supporting Details
Sometimes there are unexpected problems.	Rainy days or bad luck can happen
	Example – your mom or dad becomes ill and can’t work
	Example – car breaks down
	Example – might need school supplies
	Thankful to have that extra cash in time of need
Second Main Idea	
Kids can help if they have saved money.	Kids like to help
	Parents won’t have to worry so much
	Makes you feel proud

**Concluding Statement**

Think about saving money the next time you hear the “cha-ching” of a cash register.

## I. Introduction

(hook)

CI - People save money to prepare for emergencies.

## II. Body

MI - Unexpected problems

- Rainy days or bad luck can happen
- Example - your mom or dad becomes ill and can't work
- Example - car breaks down
- Example - might need school supplies
- Thankful to have that extra cash in time of need

MI - Kids can help if they save.

- Kids like to help
- Parents won't have to worry so much
- Makes you feel proud

## III. Closing

CI and PT - Think about saving money the next time you hear the "cha-ching" of a cash register.

# 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 - People save money to prepare for emergencies.

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

II. Body

MI - Unexpected problems

- Rainy days or bad luck can happen
- Example - your mom or dad becomes ill and can't work
- Example - car breaks down
- Example - might need school supplies
- Thankful to have that extra cash in time of need

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

MI - Kids can help if they save.

- Kids like to help
- Parents won't have to worry so much
- Makes you feel proud

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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 - Think about saving money the next time you hear the "cha-ching"  
of a cash register.

# "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

Money can be a big deal to grownups and to little kids like me.

### Hook #2

Money is important, and it can be very helpful to kids and to grownups.

### Hook #3

I am just learning about the real value of money. Money is more than just dollar bills and coins.

### Parting Thought #1

It's always a good idea to show your piggy bank some love, love, love, and one day it will LOVE you back!

### Parting Thought #2

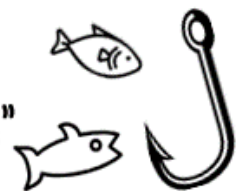
Even without any emergencies, it is a good idea to save for a rainy day.

### Parting Thought #3

Saving your money is a great idea. It can help when good and bad things happen.

Beginning to end with “Parting Thoughts!”

Leave the reader wanting more!



## Sample Essay

I have seen my parents use money to buy things for my family. Sometimes they have to pay for things they did not expect. People save money to prepare for emergencies.

We have had unexpected problems. "Rainy days" or bad luck can happen to anyone. For example, your mom or dad can become ill with the flu suddenly. If this happens, they can't go to work. If you don't work, then parents don't get a paycheck. Another thing that can happen is your car can break down. Or, you might need new school supplies like pencils, folders, and markers. All these things require money. Emergencies can creep up anytime. You will be thankful to have some extra cash in time of need. It's good to be ready, and kids can show they are responsible with a piggy bank.

Kids can help by saving their money too. All kids like to feel helpful. It feels good when you help your family. It is really nice if you can help your mom and dad with some of your own money. Sometimes you get money for birthdays or holidays. Parents won't have to worry so much when they have bills to pay for emergencies. It can make you feel proud to help your family. Every penny can help.

So why is it a good idea to save money? You never know when there will be a family emergency. Think about saving money the next time you hear the "cha-ching" of a cash register.

## **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 <sup>st</sup> Idea ____  E____  CE____  PE____  Other____	2 <sup>nd</sup> Idea____  E____  CE____  PE____  Other____	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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.  
This idea makes this prompt fun!



**Informal Writing Activity Springboard:** Copy, cut and give each student one image. On the image, have students write one reason they think saving money is important. Require student only choose ONE reason. That reason may be used as the central idea in a sentence when they write to this prompt independently.



