

Expository Prompt

Read the following information.

Everyone has thought about trips they might take and places they would like to visit.

Think about a place you have visited.

Write an essay explaining one place you have visited and why you enjoyed the visit.

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

The zoo is always a place I enjoy visiting.

Main Ideas about the Central Idea	
First Main Idea	Supporting Details
Animals	In unique habitat enclosures
	Free to roam
	Special area
Second Main Idea	
Scenery	Plants
	Living area for animals
Second Main Idea	
Food	Sausage-on-a-stick
	Cold drinks
	Ice cream

Concluding Statement

The zoo is always a good choice when looking for an adventure! It's the zoo for me.

I. Introduction (hook)

CI – The zoo is always a place I enjoy visiting.

II. Body

MI – I love seeing the animals.

- In unique habitat enclosures
- Free to roam
- Special area

MI – The animals have unique scenery.

- Plants
- Living area for animals

MI – Another fun part is the food.

- Sausage-on-a-stick
- Cold drinks
- Ice cream

III. Closing

CI and PT – The zoo is always a good choice when looking for an adventure! It's the zoo for me.

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 readers attention. Use this central idea or develop one with a similar idea.

I.

Introduction

(hook)

CI - The zoo is always a place I enjoy visiting.

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

II. Body

MI - I love seeing the zoo animals.

- In unique habitat enclosures
- Free to roam
- Special area

- 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 - The animals have unique scenery.

- Plants
- Living area for animals

- 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 - Another fun part is the food.

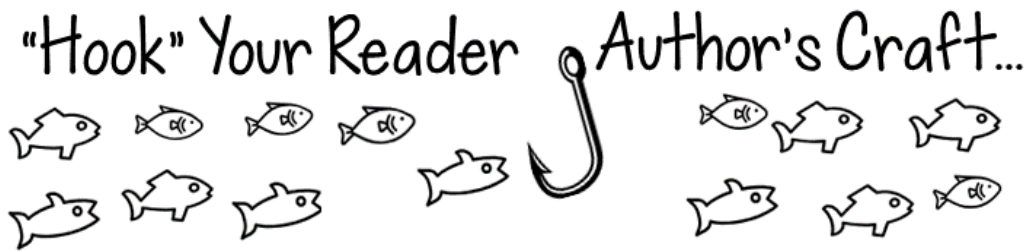
- Sausage -on-a-stick
- Cold drinks
- Ice cream

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

III. Closing

CI and PT - The zoo is always a good choice when looking for an adventure! It's the zoo for me.



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

The lions, the tigers, the bears! Where can you go into the wild, but really stay close to home? Only one place is a home to all these wild creatures.

Hook #2

I can already hear the sounds coming from the monkey house. I can already see the tall giraffes and even the polar bear exhibits. I am always ready to jump in the car and go to my favorite place.

Hook #3

When I think about where I would love to spend thousands of hours, I am reminded of thousands of creatures from all over the world.

Parting Thought #1

When wild lions, tigers, and bears meet me at the door...my wild side comes out too!

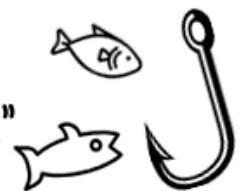
Parting Thought #2

On any day and at any time, you can be sure that I am willing and ready to go to the zoo!

Parting Thought #3

I can't imagine spending endless hours anywhere else than with the wild creatures of the world that live at the zoo. Any time I spend at the zoo makes the time fly, run, and roar by!

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



Sample Essay

I can already hear the sounds coming from the monkey house. I can already see the tall giraffes and even the "cool" polar bear exhibit. I am always ready to jump in the car and go to my favorite place. The zoo is always a place I enjoy visiting.

More than anything else, I love seeing the animals! The zoo is all about caring for animals from all over the world. Since they come from many places, zoologists try to create unique habitat enclosures like the Money House, the Butterfly Exhibit, and the African Safari Giraffe exhibit. Modern zoos have animal exhibits that let the animals to roam free. This keeps the animals happy and healthy. These special areas make it great for visitors too because we get to see how the animals live in their natural environments. For example, the Reptile House is "ssssssso" cool. I love seeing all the different types of lizards there, but I really love seeing the snakes up close. There's no way you could look at a snake up close otherwise. The snakes and all the animals are surrounded in nature.

The scenery at the zoo changes with each animal exhibit. My mom likes to look at the different plants at each exhibit. She always knows the names of all the flowers. I guess there's something for everyone. I just like looking at all the different living areas the zoologists build for the animals. They really go out of their way to make the animals feel at home with the scenery. There are always many different types of trees, exotic plants, and unusual flowers.

Another fun part of any zoo visit is the food. For some reason, the snack food at the zoo is always tastier than food at home. After walking around the zoo, you get hungry. My favorite snack food is the sausage-on-a-stick. It tastes even better with a cold drink. We also enjoy ice cream after our meal. We usually continue our zoo visit while we finish our ice cream dessert.

The zoo is always a good choice when looking for an adventure! If I get a choice about where to spend a fun day—it's always the zoo for me.

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.

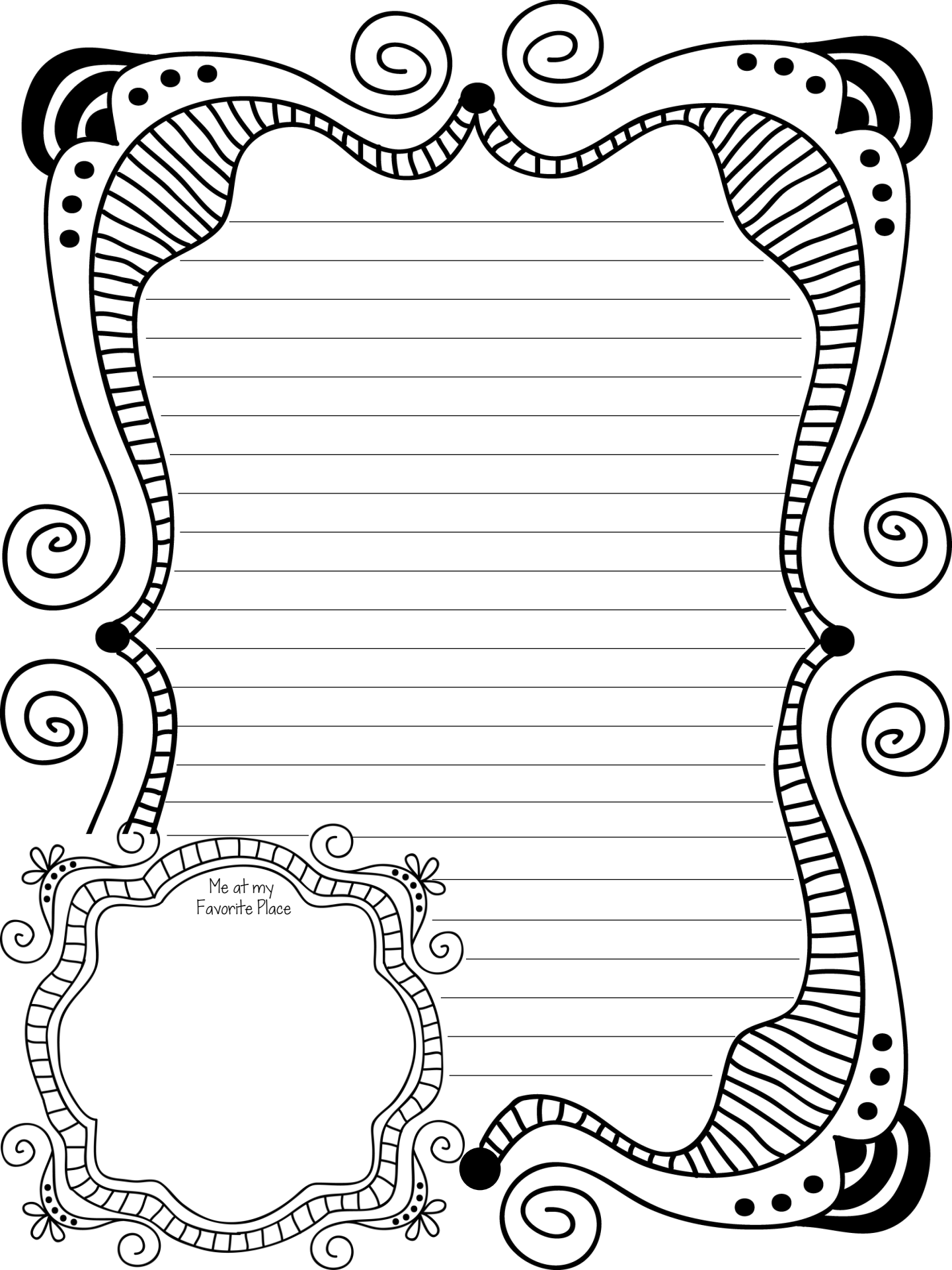
Details that Describe	Action Details	Persuasive Details	Details that Inform	Dialogue Details
State the obvious	Act and think	If...then	State the opposite	“Dialogue” with tags
Just like that	But, why???	Take the opposite side	What’s Next?	Instead of <i>said</i>
Action, action, action clues	Numbers date/time/value	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.
This idea makes this prompt fun!

Informal Writing Activity Springboard: Show pictures of your favorite places. Then ask students to discuss places they have visited. It can be the home of a relative, a park, a lake, or any place they enjoyed spending time. Have students bring in a picture or draw a picture and make a guessing game out of it. Later, these can be used as the central idea for this prompt-which helps students with their own central idea.

Ask: Can anyone guess what the topic of our prompt will be based on these pictures?





Me at my
Favorite Place

