

# English I Writing Expository Prompt

Read the following.

Taking a risk in life leads to two things: If you win, you can learn, if you lose, you can grow.

Life is full of many situations where risk is involved.

Write an essay explaining whether it is sometimes necessary to take a risk.

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:** If you don't take chances, how will you ever learn or gain something new?

Main Ideas of the Thesis	
First Main Idea	Supporting Details
Joined the debate team	Not very good public speaker
	Decided to join the debate team anyway
	Slowly but surely, gained confidence
	Became a much better speaker
	Worth the risk
Second Main Idea	
UIL competition	Felt nervous and scared first round
	By the fourth and final round, I was confident
	Qualified for regionals
	Felt proud of myself

**Concluding Statements:** If I hadn't taken the chance to join the team, I wouldn't have such an accomplishment. Instead I earned a chance to compete at a regional competition and take another, even greater, personal risk. This time, it won't be something new.

## I. Introduction

Thesis - If you don't take chances, how will you ever learn or gain something new?

## II. Body

MI - Joined the debate team

- Not very good public speaker
- Decided to join the debate team anyway
- Slowly but surely, gained confidence
- Became a much better speaker

Worth the risk

MI - UIL competition

- Felt nervous and scared first round
- By the fourth and final round, I was confident
- Qualified for regionals
- Felt proud of myself

## III. Closing

Thesis and PT - If I hadn't taken the chance to join the team, I wouldn't have such an accomplishment. Instead I earned a chance to compete at a regional competition and take another, even greater, personal risk. This time, it won't be something new.

# 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 - If you don't take chances, how will you ever learn or gain something new?

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

## II. Body

MI - Joined the debate team

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

- Not very good public speaker
  - Decided to join the debate team anyway
  - Slowly but surely, gained confidence
  - Became a much better speaker
- Worth the risk

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

MI - UIL competition

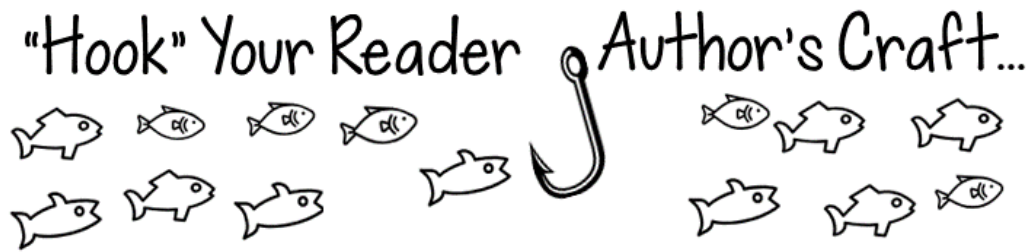
- You may add other supporting details. Use detail moves to make your writing interesting and engaging.

- Felt nervous and scared first round
- By the fourth and final round, I was confident
- Qualified for regionals
- Felt proud of myself

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 - If I hadn't taken the chance to join the team, I wouldn't have such an accomplishment. Instead I earned a chance to compete at a regional competition and take another, even greater, personal risk. This time, it won't be something new.



### 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. In middle school, truisms are effective introductory statements that represent a growing complexity in writing. The “hook” statements provided may include truisms or other effective methods enhancing the development of growing writers.

#### **Hook #1**

Although it may not feel like it at the time, risk is always accompanied with a big reward.

#### **Hook #2**

Consider the formula: Risk = Reward. Some people equate risk-taking to rewards.

#### **Hook #3**

Some people take the bull by the horn and take a risk. Others take a slow step back and are afraid to take a risk in life.

#### **Parting Thought #1**

Risk has taught me that to succeed, you must be willing to drop the fear and take the chance.

#### **Parting Thought #2**

There's a balance to risk and reward. It always seems impossible until it's done.

#### **Parting Thought #3**

Remember this saying, “A ship is safer in a harbor, but that is not what a ship was built for.”



## **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

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## Revision Checklist Expository

Introductory Paragraph				Concluding Paragraph
Topic ____	Main Ideas			Topic ____
Thesis ____	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____	Thesis ____
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	