

Hand out 1:

Expository Writing

Expository writing is explaining the why of something. (For example: Write to explain your favorite game. The child will choose one game and choose two main ideas why it is their favorite game.) After that the child will “prove” why those two ideas are good reasons by using details and anecdotes. Make sure to include a large vocabulary and precise language.

1st paragraph: Restate the prompt. Tell your main idea of the whole paper, for example: My favorite game is basketball. Give two reasons (smaller main ideas), ex. This game is wonderful because I play challenging games with my friends and you can compete with other teams.

2nd paragraph: State your first reason. Use details to prove the idea by explaining how you “play games with your friends. Use anecdotes, similes, metaphors, and big vocabulary words.

3rd paragraph: State your second reason. Prove it the same way you did in paragraph two. Make sure that you begin with a transition word. Use plenty of anecdotes and precise details.

4th paragraph: Summarize your essay. Restate your topic and two reasons.

Definitions:

Anecdotes: short statements explaining the why of an idea through an example.

Metaphor: Comparing things. Ex.: The child said “We better shape up or we will be the grass and mom will be the lawn mower.”

Similes: Comparing things using like or as; Ex.: The man looked as mad as a wet cat.

Precise language: Be specific. My mother and I strolled to the Huddle House and inhaled our breakfast. NOT We went out to eat.

Large vocabulary: Use more complex words, especially in the use of your verbs. Ex. instead of “go to bed” use “crawled into bed”.

Transition words: Connecting words such as Furthermore, In addition to, First of all.

*Please note that Union County uses a four-paragraph form. Many counties require five paragraphs. We have discovered that students can use more precise language, details, metaphors, and similes in four paragraphs as required by the FCAT writing rubric.