

COMPOSING EXPOSITIONS

Creating an expository piece can be challenging. But, it is definitely not impossible. Hopefully, you have started the process of composing with some prewriting (to help you to plan and to organize ideas initially). If so, then, you should be adequately prepared to start compose the longer paper.

The DRAFTING stage of the Writing Process is all about setting and achieving goals. However, it is also about knowing your limits for the time you are putting into the paper.

For example, if you are writing a ten page assignment for your instructor, then the goal may be about length rather than quality initially. Reaching ten pages is a good goal for starters. Honestly, you can always work on revisiting the elements of style and work on quality later; the stage of REWRITING serves this purpose (i.e. cleaning up your draft).

What is realistic for a beginning draft?

Well, here are some realistic thoughts for a draft:

1. Drafts are allowed to be drafts (Be realistic: There is nothing finished or polished about a draft -> If you start by thinking your first draft is the last draft, you may be setting yourself up for serious frustration).
2. Drafts are allowed to be the culmination of your prewriting and new thoughts (that is, using anatomy as an analogy: You can start with your prewriting as a skeleton and carefully add the muscle).
3. Drafts are allowed to have holes (Your draft does not need to address every single issues or thought initially. Leaving holes for material to go later is a realistic idea).
4. And, vice-versa, drafts are allowed to include every single detail you can muster (REWRITING is for cutting and editing, so let your intellectual stream of consciousness rule). A word of caution: If you decide to write as much as you can, try to have some headings (e.g. introduction, body, conclusion) to delineate what goes where and to help you in keeping some semblance of arrangement.

The focus of a basic expository piece is often simple subject matter (e.g. a single person, place, and thing). You simply write about what you can sense, induce, or deduce about the subject matter.

Expository writing is more or less explanatory writing; that is, expositions focus on explaining a idea or a particular process.

If you have ever written a basic research report, then you have completed some expository writing. More than often, a work of exposition focuses on finding the denotations associated with a particular person, place, or thing. However, unlike a description, which focuses on sensory issues; unlike a narrative, which focuses on events or characters, expositions usually report just the facts. There is no motive or intent other than to inform.