



The Lantern English Co.  
The Beginning Writer

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## **Expository Writing – Syllabus**

**Course Description:** Expository writing is all about being informative. This course introduces students to the concept of giving information through writing. Students will learn how to inform readers through describing things they know and love, explaining both a familiar and unfamiliar process, writing a simple biography, writing an event report, classifying something, and comparing two things. Students in this class should be generally comfortable with writing three-paragraph compositions.

### **Course Outline:**

**Week One:** What Do I Know?

**Week Two:** My Favorite

**Week Three:** Process Writing

**Week Four:** More Process Writing

**Week Five:** Biography Writing

**Week Six:** Report Writing

**Week Seven:** Intro to Classification

**Week Eight:** Intro to Compare & Contrast

**Grading Information:** All assignments will be graded using *The Beginning Writer* Grading Rubric and averaged to receive a final course grade.



## Expository Writing

### Lesson Two: My Favorite

#### SAMPLE LESSON

As we said last week, it is easiest to tell others about and write about **things we know**. These are facts about ourselves, our families, and our homes. When we meet a new person, we typically begin with this information. After that, we often move on to personal preferences and favorites. These are **things we love**.

Telling others about things we love usually comes fairly easily. We love to talk about things we love, and we also enjoy building relationships around these things and expressing our interests instead of just basic facts about ourselves. Therefore, writing about things we love also makes for an easier assignment. Because we are writing about something we love, coming up with ideas and getting words on the page is naturally simpler.

This week, you practice sharing one of your favorites. Perhaps you only have one favorite, or perhaps you have many favorites. The idea behind sharing a favorite thing is to explain your *why*. Certainly, you can say things like, “Chocolate is my favorite flavor of ice cream,” or “My favorite sport is soccer.” But this information will not get you very far in writing. To construct a composition about something you love, you have to be like a preschooler and ask, “Why?”

- Why is chocolate my favorite flavor of ice cream?
- Why is soccer my favorite sport?
- Why is my favorite color green?
- Why is my favorite season spring?

Understanding your why(s) is what will help you effectively write about your favorite thing(s).

## FIRST STEPS –

1. **Begin by choosing a topic.** What is something you love? When you hear the phrase *my favorite*, what do you think of? This can really be anything: your favorite food, drink, dessert, season, animal, person, color, piece of clothing, toy, stuffed animal, book, holiday, vacation destination, memory, experience, movie, school subject, etc.
2. **Ask yourself why.** Suppose you choose a book. “Why is this my favorite book? Why do I like this book more than any other book I have ever read?”
3. **Brainstorm reasons.** Get out a piece of paper and a writing utensil. Scribble reasons why this book or this season or this stuffed animal is your favorite. Do not think about editing or proper sentences. Just get your ideas on this page. Why do you like your topic so much?
4. **Choose two or three main reasons and create your topic statement.** “Soccer is my favorite sport because I get to learn from great coaches, I get to spend time with my team, and I get to run a lot.”
5. **Finally, think about details that explain each of your reasons.** Try to come up with two or three supporting details for each main reason. For example: “Soccer is my favorite sport because I get to learn from great coaches.” What information can you use to explain this reason? Who are your coaches? How long have you worked with these coaches? What do you get to learn from your coaches that you are not learning or could not learn elsewhere?

## WRITING IT DOWN –

After you create a topic statement and choose a few supporting details, you can turn this information into a composition. Your favorite-thing composition should include the following:

- An **introduction** which hooks the reader, provides some general information about the topic and presents your topic statement. Your introduction should be three to five sentences long.
- A **body** which contains one to three paragraphs which explain the main reasons listed in your topic statement. Each paragraph should begin with a clear topic sentence listing a main reason, followed by the supporting details which explain that main reason. Each paragraph should be three to five sentences long.

- A **conclusion** which restates the topic statement and provides closure. You may end the composition by encouraging the reader to try your favorite, by sharing a favorite memory or lesson learned, or by asking a question. Your conclusion should be three to five sentences long.

**EXAMPLE –**

Julia River

October 15, 2017

Soccer: My Favorite Sport

I began playing soccer five years ago. Even though I have tried many other sports in this time, soccer is so much better than any of those. Soccer is my favorite sport because I get to learn from great coaches, I get to spend time with my team, and I get to run a lot.

First, soccer is my favorite sport because I get to learn from great coaches. I have worked with my coaches, Mr. James and Ms. Lucy, for three years now. Mr. James and Ms. Lucy are a super fun married couple who help me improve as a player and still enjoy the sport. From Mr. James and Ms. Lucy, I have learned how to listen and follow directions, how to work hard and not give up, and how to be a good competitor.

Soccer is also my favorite sport because I get to spend time with my team. I have been playing soccer with many of the same girls for all five years. Together, we learn how to support each other, work hard, and have a good time. We celebrate a lot when we win, and we push each other to get better when we lose. My soccer teammates are my best friends.

Finally, soccer is my favorite sport because I get to run a lot. My parents say I started running when I was only a year old. I don't think I have stopped since. I love to run, run, and run some more. Soccer is a sport that allows me to put my energy to good use.

Learning from great coaches, spending time with my team, and running a lot are what make soccer my favorite sport. To me, no other sport is the same. I have so much fun on the field, during practice and games. I hope I will be able to play soccer for a long time.

**Assignment 2:** Think of something that is your favorite.

**STEP ONE:** Make a list of the reasons why this topic is your favorite. “Chocolate is my favorite flavor of ice cream because . . .”; choose two or three of these reasons to write about in the composition. Create a topic statement. Then, jot down details that will help explain each of the reasons.

**STEP TWO:** Using your topic statement, list of reasons, details for each reason, and the example from the lesson as a guide, write a basic “my favorite” composition. Be sure to include a good introduction that interests the reader and gives the topic statement. Each body paragraph should clearly state one of your reasons and details that explain the reason. The conclusion should state again the topic and reasons, but in different words. You may also use other forms of closure, such as a question, a hope, or an emotion.

**Remember to format the composition properly:** Include your name and the date in the upper left-hand corner of the page. Add a title, centered above the composition. In the composition, write one sentence after the other. Indent the first line of each paragraph or place a full space between each paragraph. Left-align the text. Justified text is optional but not required.