

SBAC ESSAY: THE BASICS

The Writing Types
Breaking Down a Prompt
Two Column Outline

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF WRITING

Informative/Explanatory	Argument	Imaginative Narrative	Nonfiction Narrative
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● “How to” styles of writing● Procedure documents and manuals● Factual compare and contrast writing● Explanation of a cause/effect● Problem/Solution● Definition essays● Sequencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Critique● Sales and marketing documents● Op-ed and opinion column in a newspaper● Reviews● Opinions written by lawyers or judges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Novels● Short stories● Mysteries and thrillers● Myths, legends, tall tales● Science fiction● Fairytales	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Biographies● Autobiographies● Diaries and journals● Memoir● Story in a history textbook

INFORMATIVE / EXPLANATORY WRITING

The purpose of this style of writing is to share information with the reader; to help educate them on a topic.

There is no opinion in this style of writing, rather, it consists mainly of facts supported by details and elaboration.

General Outline

Introduction: Introduce the topic, give background information, and provide a thesis statement.

Body Paragraphs: Provide at least ONE FACT for each body paragraph and spend your time supporting that fact with details.

Conclusion: Revisit the topic and provide your reader with a brief summary of the most important facts you covered.

INFORMATIVE / EXPLANATORY ESSAY RUBRIC

Purpose & Organization	Evidence & Elaboration	Conventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">controlling or main idea of a topic is clearly communicated, and the focus is strongly maintained for the purpose, audience, and taskconsistent use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideaseffective introduction and conclusionlogical progression of ideas from beginning to end; strong connections between and among ideas with some syntactic variety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">comprehensive evidence from sources is integrated; references are relevant and specificeffective use of a variety of elaborative techniques (may include the use of personal experiences that support the controlling idea)vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purposeeffective, appropriate style enhances content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the response demonstrates an adequate command of conventionsadequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling

ARGUMENT WRITING

The purpose of this style of writing is to persuade your reader to accept- or at least strongly consider- your stance on the topic.

While there is opinion in this style of writing, it must be presented in a way that is strongly supported with reasons, details, and explanations. Ethos, pathos, and logos must ALL be used to fully convince the reader.

General Outline

Introduction: Introduce the topic, give background information, and provide a strong claim/stance on the issue.

Body Paragraphs: Provide at least ONE REASON/ARGUMENT that supports your stance for each body paragraph and spend your time supporting that reason with details and explanations. Use powerful rhetoric!

Concession/Refutation: Make at least one concession that connects to an argument you made and provide a refutation that is stronger than the concession.

Conclusion: This is a “closing argument” style conclusion. Make it count. Give the reader a call to action and tell them why they should care!

ARGUMENT ESSAY RUBRIC

Purpose & Organization	Evidence & Elaboration	Conventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● claim is introduced, clearly communicated, and the focus is strongly maintained for the purpose, audience, and task● consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas● effective introduction and conclusion● logical progression of ideas from beginning to end; strong connections between and among ideas with some syntactic variety● alternate and opposing argument(s) are clearly acknowledged or addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● comprehensive evidence from sources is integrated; references are relevant and specific● effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques (may include the use of personal experiences that support the argument)● vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose● effective, appropriate style enhances content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● the response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions: adequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling

NARRATIVE WRITING

The purpose of this style of writing is to tell a story, and because of this you need to have a basic plot that includes: setting, characters, and an outcome.

In a narrative, you must sequence the events within a timeline in chronological order, describing the action with rich, sensory language (imagery, word pictures).

General Outline

Introduction: Introduce the topic of the story and begin to build it up by describing the setting and character(s). Engage the reader and draw them in with storytelling.

Body Paragraphs: Instead of a “first, second, third” model of writing, this focuses on a beginning, middle, and end of a particular story. Include lots of rich, sensory detail and tell it from a specific point of view!

Conclusion: Tell the reader the outcome or resolution of this story. Provide a lesson learned if necessary.

NARRATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

Purpose & Organization	Evidence & Elaboration	Conventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● organization of the narrative, real or imagined, is fully sustained and the focus is clear and maintained throughout● an effective plot helps to create a sense of unity and completeness● effectively establishes and maintains setting, develops narrator/characters, and maintains point of view● consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas; strong connection between and among ideas● natural, logical sequence of events from beginning to end● effective opening and closure for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● the narrative, real or imagined, provides thorough, effective elaboration using relevant details, dialogue, and description● experiences, characters, setting and events are clearly developed● connections to source materials may enhance the narrative● effective use of a variety of narrative techniques that advance the story or illustrate the experience● effective use of sensory, concrete, and figurative language that clearly advances the purpose● effective, appropriate style enhances the narration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● the response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions: adequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling

BREAKING DOWN A PROMPT

Circle the Verb & Square the Noun

1. Go through the prompt and circle all of the verbs
2. Go back and after every verb, put a square or box around the noun that follows it
3. Pair the verbs and nouns together
4. Make a to-do list for the writing prompt starting from the first set to the last set

TAP-F

1. **T:** Identify the **TOPIC** you will be writing about
2. **A:** Identify who the specific **AUDIENCE** is, such as *your community, a senator, a peer...*
3. **P:** Identify what the goal, or **PURPOSE**, of your writing is supposed to be, such as *describe, explain, propose, defend...*
4. **F:** Identify what the **FORMAT** of your writing should be, such as *essay, letter, story...*

TWO COLUMN OUTLINE (DO IT! IT HELPS!!!)

TOPIC/THESIS STATEMENT



**Topic Sentence for
Body Paragraph 1**

- reason, detail, and/or fact to support the topic sentence
- explanation & elaboration of reason, detail, and/or fact (CITE YOUR SOURCES and CONNECT IDEAS)
- explanation & elaboration of reason, detail, and/or fact (CITE YOUR SOURCES and CONNECT IDEAS)
- reason, detail, and/or fact to support the topic sentence
- explanation & elaboration of reason, detail, and/or fact (CITE YOUR SOURCES and CONNECT IDEAS)
- explanation & elaboration of reason, detail, and/or fact (CITE YOUR SOURCES and CONNECT IDEAS)

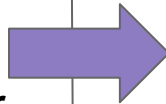
*End each paragraph with a transitional concluding sentence.



**Topic Sentence for
Body Paragraph 2**



**Topic Sentence for
Body Paragraph 3**



**Repeat the same thing as above for all
remaining body paragraphs!!!**