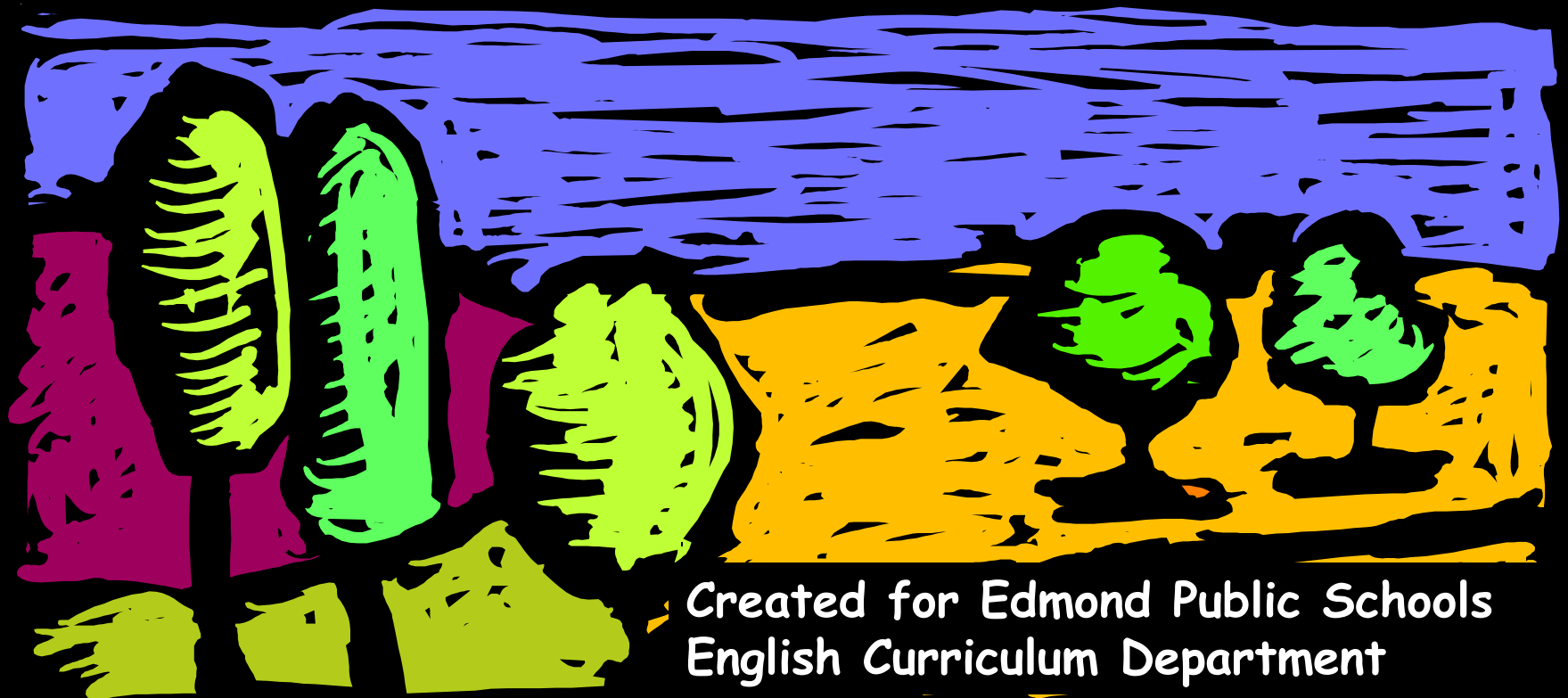




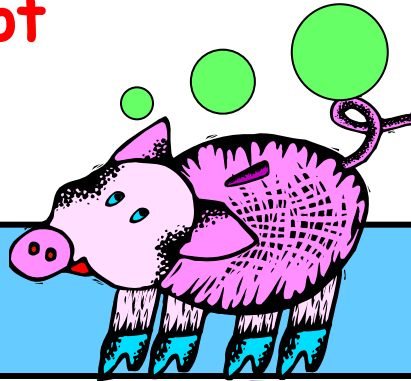
MODES OF WRITING: AN OVERVIEW



Created for Edmond Public Schools
English Curriculum Department

As a writer, you want to be ready to respond

- to any **prompt**
- at any time
- in any **mode**.



Yes, we are always working on this in English class, and we have it on our state writing test.

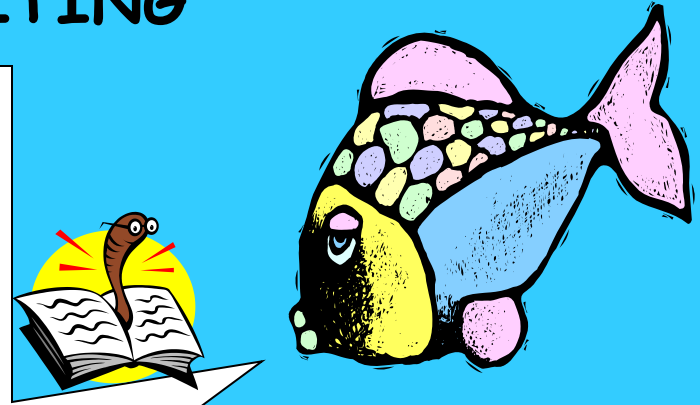
The **prompt** is the question, quotation, or statement you respond to in writing.

The word **mode** means *kind* or *style*, so **writing mode** means the *kind* of essay you will write when you respond to the prompt.

PURPOSES FOR READING and MODES OF WRITING

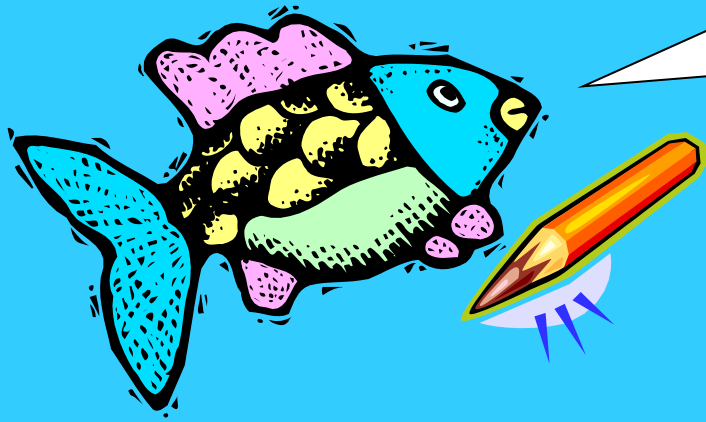
Just as there are different purposes for reading:

- to be entertained,
- to learn how to do something,
- to search for information,
- to compare two things,
- to solve a problem;



there are different modes of writing:

- **narrative**,
- **descriptive**,
- **expository**,
- **persuasive**,
- **reflective**.



WHAT YOU DO WITH THE MODES

NARRATIVE:

Tell a **story**; real or imagined; plot, characters, etc.
Relate a **sequence of events**; beginning, middle, end.
Recount what happened in a **chronological format**.



DESCRIPTIVE:

Tell what a person, place, thing, or event is **like**.
Paint a **picture in words** of something.
Portray it so that reader can **picture** it in her/his mind.

I can't wait to write my descriptive essay about these awesome cheetahs!



EXPOSITORY:

Give **factual information** about a subject; make a **report**.
Explain how to do something.
Compare/contrast two things, people, places, events.
Present a **problem/give a solution**.

PERSUASIVE:

State your **opinion**; take a **stand and defend it**; influence or convince the reader; support your position with **facts and proof**.

REFLECTIVE:

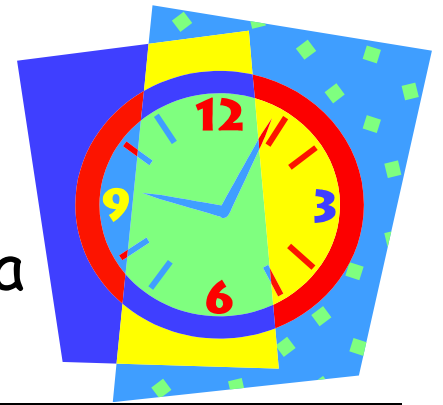
Share your **thoughts** about a **significant issue**; discuss thoughts about a **significant past event**, a quotation, etc.; tell how it **changed you**.

What You Might Write in Each Mode and Why

- **NARRATIVE** - Write a science fiction, fantasy, or autobiographical **story** for fun or to respond to a prompt.
- **DESCRIPTIVE** - Write a **review** for the school newspaper to describe what your scuba trip was like.
- **EXPOSITORY** - Write a **research report** to **compare/contrast** bottled water and tap water, present a **solution** to the global warming **problem**, or explain **how to play soccer**.
- **PERSUASIVE** - Write a **persuasive letter** to your principal to **argue** your **opinion** about the dress code when you have the facts and know you are right.
- **REFLECTIVE** - Write a **reflective essay** to share your thoughts about something significant.

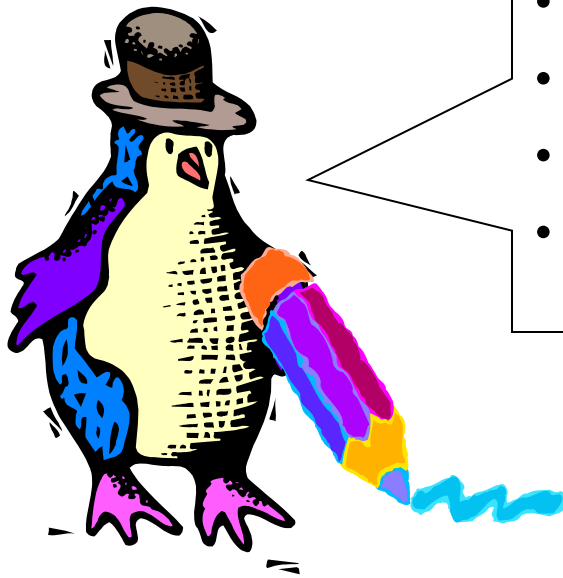


Being able to respond to a prompt
in a timed-writing setting
is an essential high school skill;
it is required for your high school diploma
(English II, English III EOI).



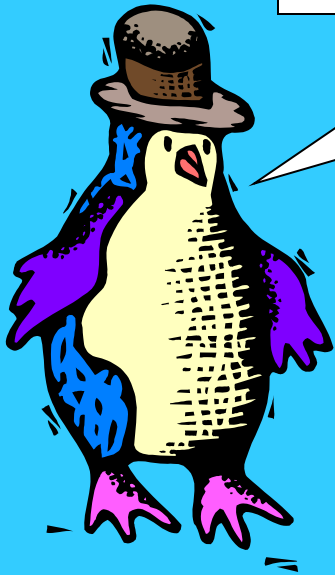
Also, writing an on-the-spot essay
is crucial in college and
in the world of employment:

- college entrance essays
- college English classes
- scholarship applications
- job interviews.



To be able to write to any prompt
in any mode in a timed-writing situation,
remember this:
All modes have basically the same format:

Beginning → Middle → End.



That's right; all modes are similar:

- introductory comments,
- the body (middle) of the essay, and
- the ending paragraph.

Writing Modes:
Alike but Different

NARRATIVE

DESCRIPTIVE, EXPOSITORY, PERSUASIVE, REFLECTIVE

Beginning

- Tell **who, what, where, when, why**
- Introduce main character and setting

Beginning

Introduction

- Contains **thesis statement**

Middle

- **Series of sequential events** divided into paragraphs
- Each paragraph starts with time transition word/phrase.
- Each paragraph tells different event.

Middle

Body

- **Divided into example paragraphs.**
- Usually about 3 paragraphs - each giving a different example or support.
- Include details, evidence, examples.

End

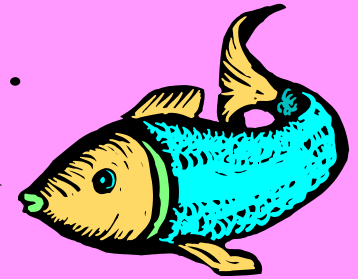
- **Big ending**; unraveling of the plot or story; wrap up the last event
- Use appropriate time transition word/phrase.

End

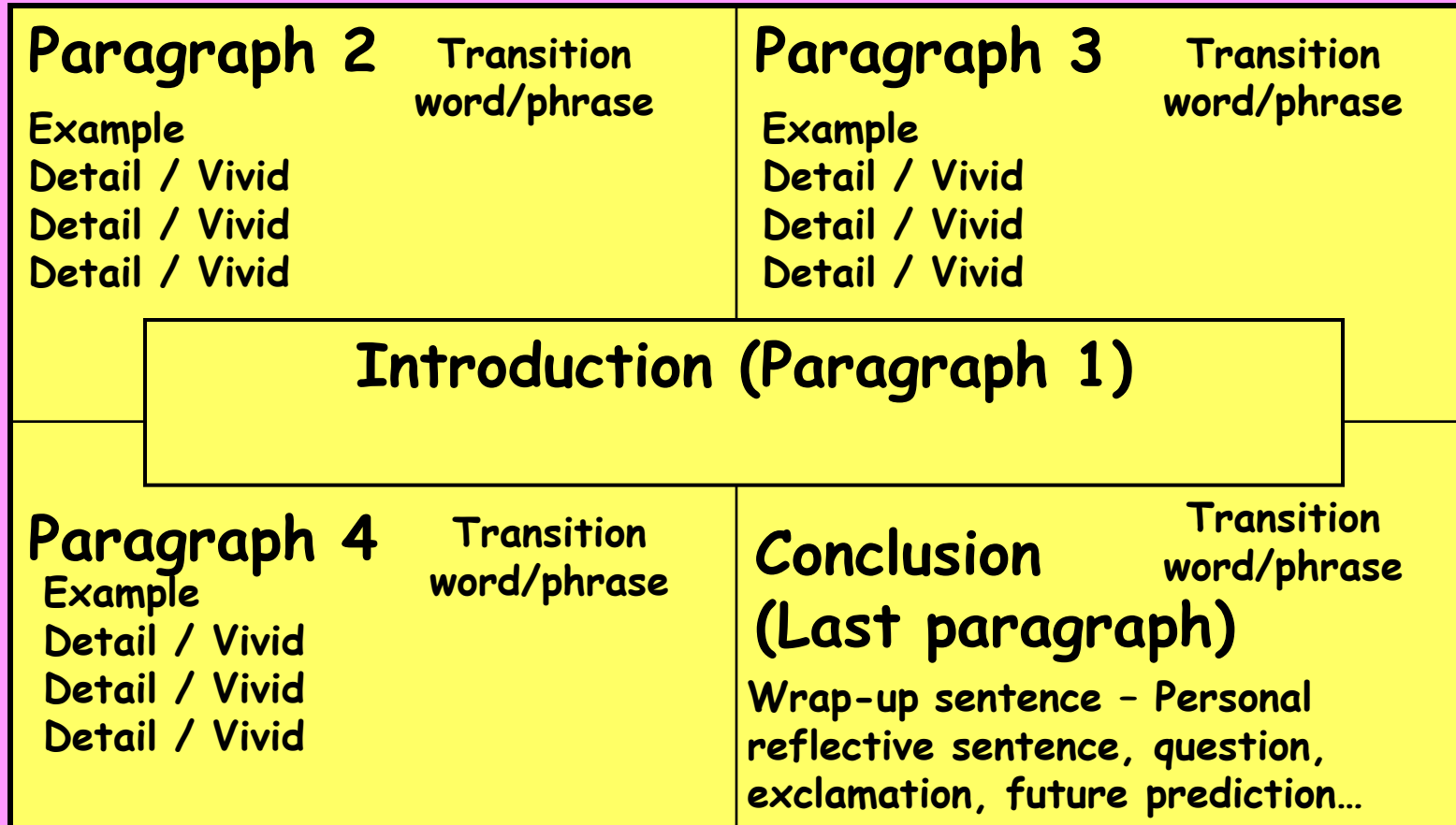
Conclusion

- **Wrap-up**: restate the thesis, start w/question or exclamation, end w/personal reflective statement or future prediction.

Some writers organize with Four Square.



This 4-Square works for these four modes:
descriptive, expository, persuasive, and reflective.



Make some changes in this 4-Square if you are writing in the **narrative** mode.

Some pull 4-Square apart and line it up vertically.

Introduction (Paragraph 1) Thesis statement is last sentence.

Beginning

Paragraph 2 Transition word/phrase

Example
Detail / Vivid
Detail / Vivid
Detail / Vivid

Middle

Paragraph 3 Transition word/phrase

Example
Detail / Vivid
Detail / Vivid
Detail / Vivid

End

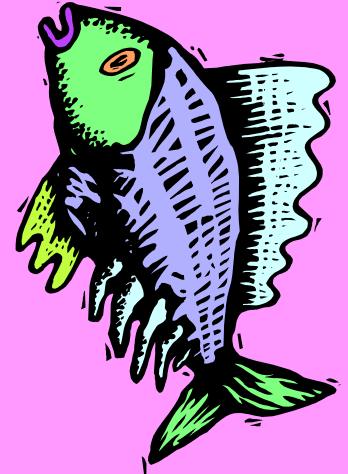
Paragraph 4 Transition word/phrase

Example
Detail / Vivid
Detail / Vivid
Detail / Vivid

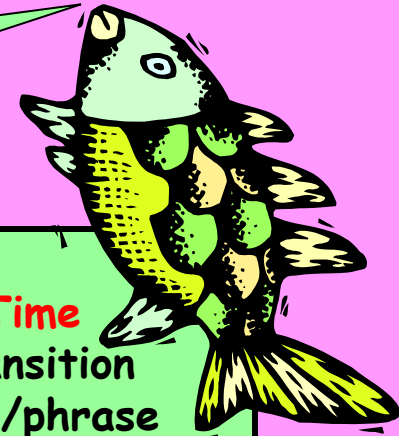
Conclusion (Last paragraph)

Transition word/phrase
Wrap-up sent. - Personal reflective sent.,
question, exclamation, future prediction...

Body Paragraphs



This is how you change the 4-Square Chart to work for **narrative writing**.



Paragraph 2

Example **Event #1**
 Detail / Vivid
 Detail / Vivid
 Detail / Vivid

Time
 Transition
 word/phrase

Paragraph 3

Example **Event #2**
 Detail / Vivid
 Detail / Vivid
 Detail / Vivid

Time
 Transition
 word/phrase

— Introduction (Paragraph 1)
 — Thesis statement last sentence in introduction.
Who? What? Where? When? Why?

Paragraph 4

Example **Event #3**
 Detail / Vivid
 Detail / Vivid
 Detail / Vivid

Time
 Transition
 word/phrase

Conclusion (Last paragraph)

Wrap-up sentence - Personal
 reflective sentence, question,
 exclamation, future prediction...

Time
 Transition
 word/phrase

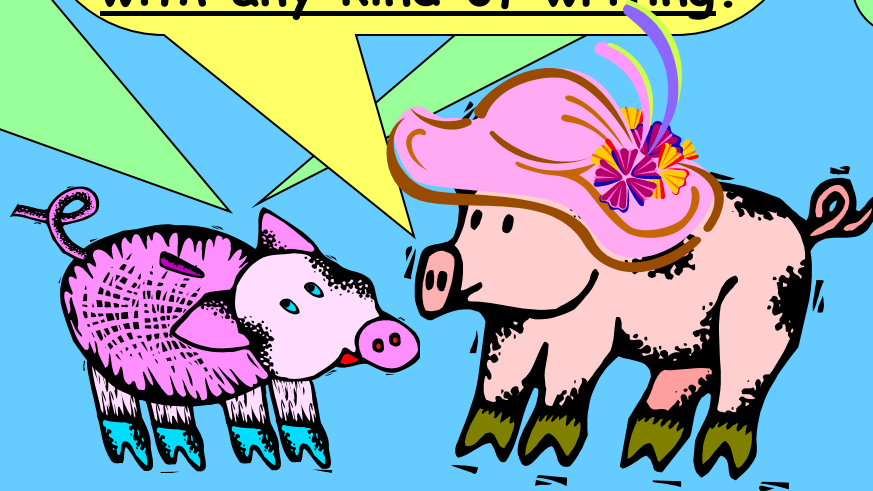
Big ending

Since it's a story, there are **events** happening instead of examples.

My English teacher says we can use either 4-Square or "Chunky Writing" to organize our essays. She said they're both essay-writing formulas. Is that right, Aunt Pretty?

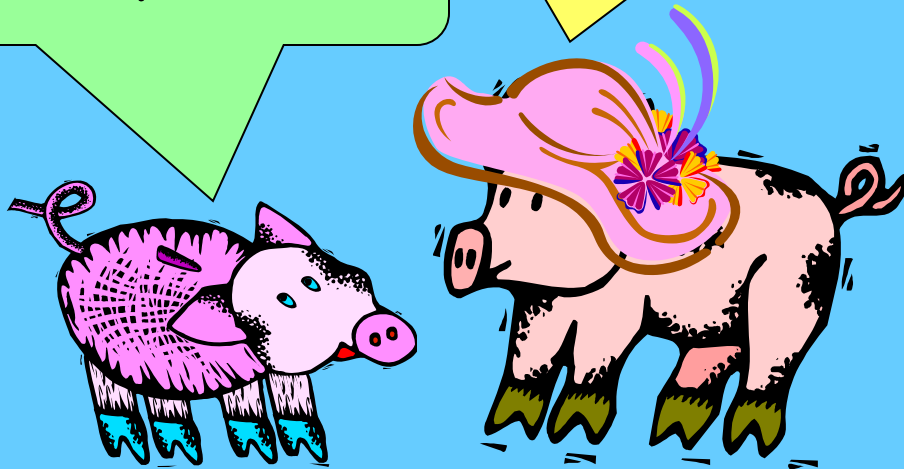
Yes, "Chunky Writing" was developed by Jane Schaffer for writing about literature. Four-Square was developed by Evan and Judith Gould to teach elementary, middle school, and 9th-10th grade students how to organize and elaborate with any kind of writing.

Well, Aunt Pretty, you're an English teacher, too; which formula is better?



Four-Square is better for elementary and middle school writers; I also like it for 9th and 10th grade writers who are preparing for state writing tests because the way it teaches elaboration is better. The 4-Square chart is a fill-in-the-blank prewriting outline, which is superior to bubble and spider prewriting. The “Example-Detail-Vivid” sentences provide a platform from which writers can create imagery, sensory description, and figurative language, the deepest levels of elaboration.

Well, how else is “Chunky” different from 4-Square?



SHAPING THE ESSAY

CHUNKY WRITING -The Schaffer Method

Para 1	Introduction (Has a subject and opinion)
Para 2	1st Body Paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic Sentence (TS)• Concrete Detail (CD) (Start with Transition Word or Phrase)• Commentary (CM)• Commentary (CM)• Concluding Sentence
Para 3	2nd Body Paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic Sentence (TS)• CD (Start with Transition Word or Phrase)• CM• CM• Concluding Sentence
Para 4	Conclusion (Transition Word or Phrase)

What is a **Chunk**?

Each grouping of **one sentence of CD (concrete detail) and two sentences of CM (commentary)** is called a "chunk."

CHUNKY WRITING

What is TS (Topic Sentence)? This is the first sentence in a body paragraph -- it must have a subject and opinion (commentary). It does the same thing for a body paragraph that the thesis does for the whole essay.

What is CD (Concrete Detail)? Specific details that form the backbone or core of your body paragraphs (facts, specifics, examples, descriptions, illustrations, support, proof, evidence, quotations, paraphrasing, plot references).

What is CM (Commentary)? Your opinion or comment about something -- not concrete detail (opinion, insight, analysis, interpretation, inference, personal response, feelings, evaluation, explication, reflection).

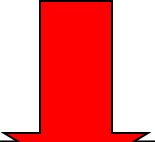

FOUR SQUARE

What is EX (Example)? This is the reason, example, or explanation that supports the main idea or thesis; 1st sentence in body paragraph; topic sentence of the body paragraph.

What is D (Detail)? The detail is elaboration on the example; prove it, illustrate it, clarify it, explain it further, tell why it is or how it is.

What is V (Vivid)? The vivid is elaboration on the detail; describe it on the sensory level; use figurative language such as similes or metaphors; use the five senses; ask, "Like what?"; describe it on an emotional level; go deeper.

Para 1	Introduction (Has a subject and opinion)
Para 2	1st Body Paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic Sentence• Concrete Detail (CD) (Start with Transition Word/Phrase)• Commentary (CM)• Commentary (CM)• Concluding Sentence



...that all in all, Goldilocks is a greedy, unpleasant girl. (Thesis statement at the end of Para 1)

(Para 2) Goldilocks is greedy when she sees three porridge bowls on the bears' table. For example, **she tastes, tastes again, and then eats the porridge without permission, saying, "That tastes just right!"** This indicates that she does not have respect for the belongings of others. With this attitude, a life in the juvenile correction system is not out of the question for her. She needs to think about respect for others before it is too late.

You can see how the "chunk" (CD, CM, CM) is the main part of each body paragraph. It is like example, detail, vivid in Four Square.

Goldilocks: A Greedy Girl - Paragraph 3: 2nd Body Paragraph

FOUR-SQUARE

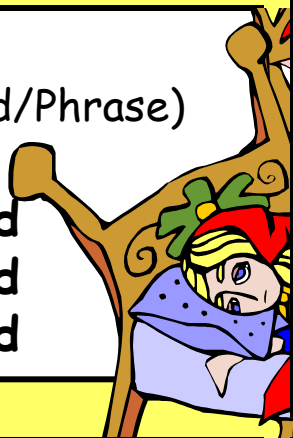
(Start with Transition Word/Phrase)

(EX) Example

(D) Detail / (V) Vivid

(D) Detail / (V) Vivid

(D) Detail / (V) Vivid



CHUNKY WRITING

(TS) Topic Sentence

(CD) Concrete Detail (Start with Transition Word/Phrase)

(CM) Commentary

(CM) Commentary

(CS) Concluding Sentence

(EX) In addition to her greedy table manners, Goldilocks also displays poor behavior as she continues to disrespect the bears' home. (D) She jumps on Papa Bear's chair, (V) wailing with giant crocodile tears, "this chair is too hard!"

(D) Mama Bear's chair is "too soft," Goldilocks screeches, (V) her tone of voice like fingernails on a chalk board. (D) By the time she finally sits in Baby Bear's "just right" chair, (V) the reader almost hopes she scoots just right so that she manages to catch a wicked splinter.

(TS) Greedy, ill-mannered Goldilocks continues her bad conduct.

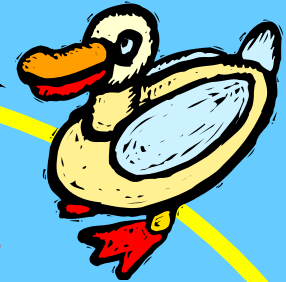
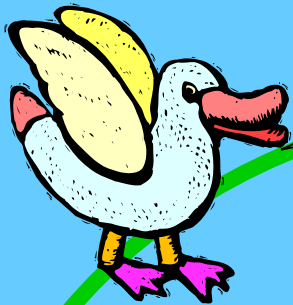
(CD) For example, she jumps on Papa Bear's chair, whining, "This chair is too hard!" (CM) This shows she is unappreciative and used to being treated like a princess.

(CM) Goldilocks' tone as she complains is the key to her character, and it reveals that she is not a pleasant child. (CS) Goldilocks should count her blessings as there are many children in the world who are homeless and hungry and would appreciate being in her position.

How are the modes alike and different?

Narrative is story-ish!

These 4 are essay-ish!



NARRATIVE

Tells a story

Series of events

Characters, plot, conflict, resolution, rising action, falling action, climax, dialogue

Sequential information connected by "time" transition words and phrases

DESCRIPTIVE EXPOSITORY PERSUASIVE REFLECTIVE

Tell what it's like
Explain how to do it
Compare/Contrast
Solve a problem
Defend your opinion
Share your thoughts

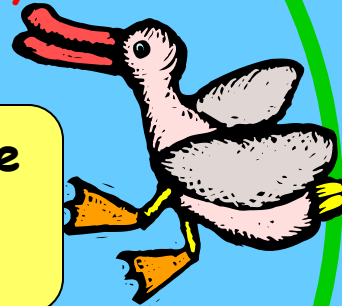
Introduction,
body, conclusion

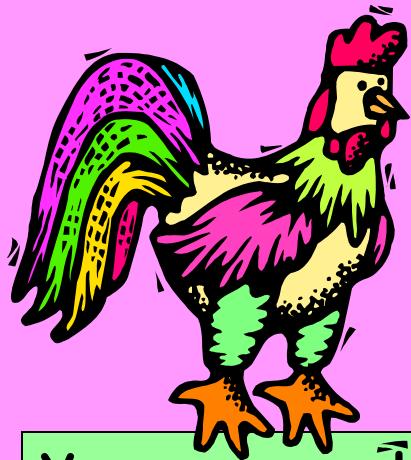
Examples, details, evidence, facts, vivids

**BEGINNING,
MIDDLE, END**

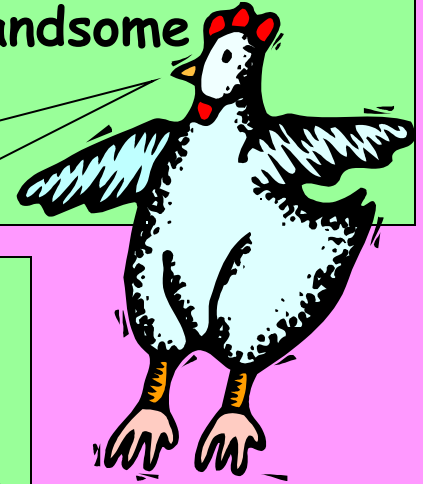
They **all** have beginning, middle, end!

Beginning is short, middle is longer, end is short.





Why can't I just start writing? Why do I have to use an organizational chart? I'm Rooster, prince of the barnyard! When I speak, everyone listens! I know it all! Look at my lavish feathers; I am too handsome for outlining essays. That is a waste of my beauty.



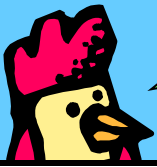
Yes, you are lovely, but last year on your writing test, you just kept repeating yourself instead of elaborating properly. With 4-Square's *Example/Detail/Vivid* structure, we can remember how to elaborate when we write. Use 4-Square until your writing is as elaborate and colorful as your feathers!

Paragraph 2

Example
Detail / Vivid
Detail / Vivid
Detail / Vivid

Transition word/phrase

4-Square Paragraph 2
Outline



OK. I need some examples.

OK. These are the 5 modes of writing with examples.



NARRATIVE

tell a story



...and it was then that he granted my wish.

DESCRIPTIVE

tell what something is like



...with gobs of shiny melted cheese.

EXPOSITORY

explain, compare/contrast, solve problem, how to



...in contrast, though, the engine...

PERSUASIVE

defend opinion, influence reader



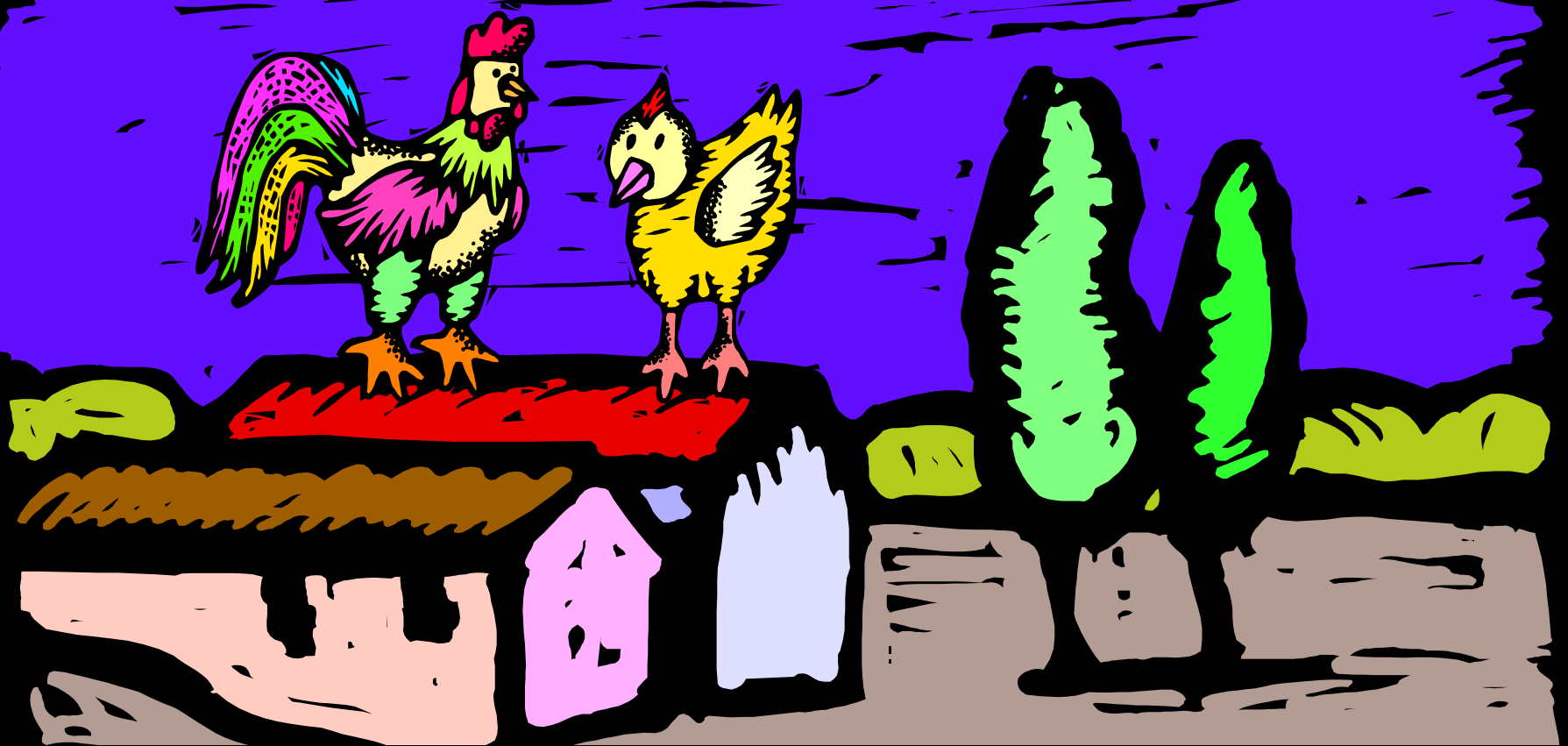
...my opinion about the new school...

REFLECTIVE

tell thoughts about how an important issue affects you



...it was then that I realized...



Ok. We understand what the modes are *like*: **NARRATIVE** - sequential, eventful; **DESCRIPTIVE** - told about, portrayed; **EXPOSITORY** - explanatory, informational; **PERSUASIVE** - convincing, logical; **REFLECTIVE** - thoughtful, sharing. But we just can't think of what kinds of essay prompts go with each of the modes. What are some examples of essay prompts?

NARRATIVE ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLES

Write about a someplace you went - a trip, a vacation, or a destination of any kind. Tell where you went, whom you went with, and what you did. In your narrative essay, be sure to use sensory images to help the reader be able to picture your journey.

Family's trip to the cabin?

Dog's trip to obedience school?

Tell the story of something memorable that happened for the first time. In your narrative essay, be sure to take the reader through each step of the way as you show why you remember this event so clearly. Remember to include a clear beginning, middle and end.

First time to scuba dive?

First day in middle school?

NARRATIVE ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLES BRAINSTORMED INTO 3 PARAGRAPHS

The Harris Family's Christmas Vacation

P.2- First, we drove to the Colorado cabin...

P.3- In the morning, we went skiing...

P.4- On Christmas Eve, we opened presents...

Maggie Goes to Obedience Training

P.2- To begin with, Maggie bit the trainer...

P.3- After that, she sat for a bacon treat...

P.4- Finally, she learned how to stay...

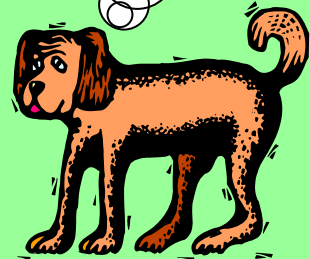
My First Scuba Dive

P.2- In the beginning, I was scared...

P.3- During the dive, I relaxed...

P.4- Finally, I swam with dolphins...

...bacon...
bacon...I
will sit for
bacon...



DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLES

Think about a place that you can picture clearly in your mind. Write a descriptive essay, telling about the place so that the reader can visualize it just from your words. Remember to use vivid verbs, precise nouns, and interesting adjectives, and be sure to include an introduction and a conclusion.

Grandma's farm?

My closet... or my bedroom... or my schoolroom...?

There are certain people or animals about whom we enjoy writing. They may be our relatives, our friends, our pets, or our favorite jungle animals. Write a descriptive essay about a person or an animal, telling the reader what is distinctive and interesting about your choice. Remember to use figurative language and sensory images.

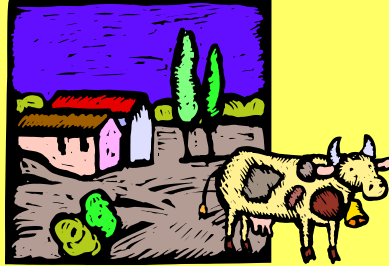
My little brother?

Terriers... or My cairn terrier Maggie...?

DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLES BRAINSTORMED INTO 3 PARAGRAPHS

Grandma's Farm

- P.1- The kitchen
- P.2- The fishing pond
- P.3- The barn



Need anything
chewed up?

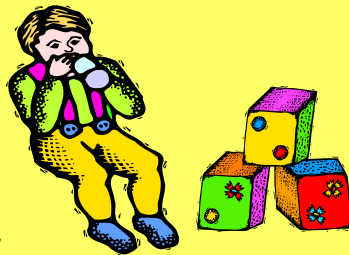
Terriers: Born to Chew, Dig, and Chase

- P.1- Chew wood, metal, fabric, plastic, human flesh
- P.2- Dig under fence, in garden; dig for grubs, moles
- P.3- Chase other dogs, people, birds, squirrels, cats



Little Brothers

- P.1-
- P.2-
- P.3-



My Closet

- P.1-
- P.2-
- P.3-



PERSUASIVE ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLES

Times are changing; should education be changing too? Schools are trying different things to help students be more successful, and the idea of gender-specific classrooms is becoming more popular. In a persuasive essay, write either for or against the idea of single-sex classrooms. Remember to support your opinion with evidence.

"The sky is falling," said Chicken Little, and some today think the same concept describes the idea of global warming. On the other hand, others swear by data that supports the idea that our planet is in jeopardy as a result of it. Write a persuasive essay supporting one or the other side of the argument. Use factual evidence and scientific data as support.

Everyone knows that sea monkeys are not the best pets. But what about cats and dogs? Both are popular, but which one makes the better pet? In a persuasive essay, prove that either one or the other is, as a result of your data, the better pet to have.

PERSUASIVE ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLES BRAINSTORMED INTO 3 PARAGRAPHS



It's Time for Single-Sex Classrooms

P.1- Boys need cooler rooms; girls need quieter rooms

P.2- Boys and girls read/write about different things

P.3- Research supports fewer distractions

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2007/08/our-view-on-gen.html>

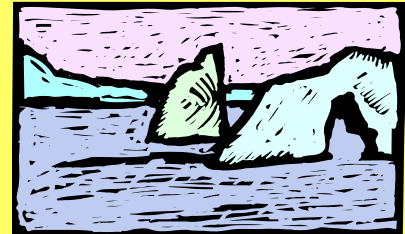
Global Warming: A Modern Fairy Tale

P.1- Sea levels not rising

P.2- Solar cycles, not CO₂ determine climate

P.3- Doctoring of reports by UN experts

<http://ourcivilisation.com/aginatur/moregw.htm>



Dogs vs. Cats: Dogs Are the Better Pet

P.1- Dogs more trainable; can understand 200 words

P.2- Dogs can hunt, herd, guard, sniff out bombs

P.3- Dog's bond w/human is like parent with child

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20427381.200-dogs-vs-cats-the-great-pet-showdown.html>

Notice that the writer accessed websites for prewriting information to brainstorm these topics.

REFLECTIVE ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLES

Everyone has a memorable encounter at some time in his or her life. Write a reflective essay about a time when you met someone - either for a brief moment in time or for a long period - and for some reason were changed, educated, enlightened, made sadder or happier, or made more mature by the encounter.

Take a moment to think about what is valuable to you. It does not have to be worth money - it might be a person, an object, a memory, or something else. Write a reflective essay about your greatest treasure...

Nothing stays the same. There is much change in our lives, and some changes stay in our memories because they are so meaningful. Write a reflective essay about a change that...

Everyone has been influenced by a great person - a friend, a grandparent, a church pastor, a loved one. Write a reflective essay about the one who has made a change in your life.

REFLECTIVE ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLES

An Encounter to Remember

P.1- at the funeral, she described her friend's dress

P.2- asked me about myself and listened carefully

P.3- wished me well in a new way as if she blessed me

My Greatest Treasure



P.1-

P.2-

P.3-

The Day It All Changed

P.1-

P.2-

P.3-

Grandfather: A Great Man Remembered

P.1-

P.2-

P.3-

EXPOSITORY ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLES

Sports are fun to participate in and to watch. There are many sports that people enjoy for many reasons. Write an expository essay about one sport, and explain how the sport evolved and why people enjoy it so much today.

Technology, which is a great help, also presents problems in today's classrooms. Students have cell phones, Ipods, phone cameras, and Internet access. What is the solution? Write a problem/solution expository essay about an aspect of this issue.

Which is the most popular - ____ - ____ or ____? Write an expository essay comparing and contrasting the two. Show by their differences and similarities that there is a good reason people like both of them so much.

Everyone enjoys learning how to do something. In an expository essay, explain how to do something about which you are an expert. Give step-by-step instructions to instruct the reader in learning your skill.

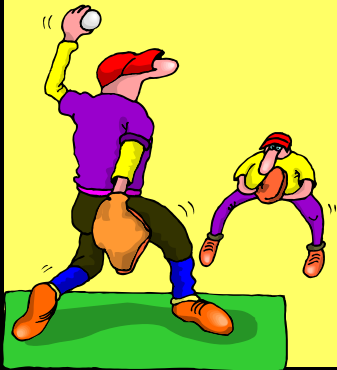
EXPOSITORY (EXPLANATORY, INFORMATIONAL) ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLE BRAINSTORMED INTO 3 PARAGRAPHS

Baseball: America's Game

P.1 - The rich history of baseball is part of the history of the United States.

P.2 - The excitement of strategic plays in the game like a triple play, a grand slam home run, etc.

P.3 - The "extras," including hot dogs, team mascots, hometown heroes



**EXPOSITORY (PROBLEM/SOLUTION)
ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLE
BRAINSTORMED INTO 3 PARAGRAPHS**

Hello! Cell Phones for Classroom Instruction

P.1 - Problem: Misuse of cell phones in classroom; students cheating by sending test answers to friends; recording teachers or students w/out permission

P.2 - Problem: Lack of understanding of how to use cell phones to enhance instruction; use for help in notetaking; pictures of projects for parents; calculators; applications on phones;

P.3 - Solution: Fair Cell Phone Use Agreement will cite rules students and teachers will abide by and will cite examples of fair use by all parties.

What? Unheard of. We teens do not cheat. Trust us.



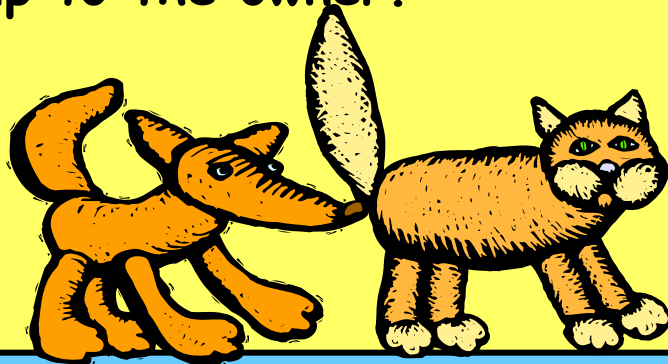
EXPOSITORY (COMPARE/CONTRAST) ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLE BRAINSTORMED INTO 3 PARAGRAPHS

America's Favorite Pet: Cat or Dog?

P.1 - Which is smarter? Dogs. They can learn more tricks and play with you more. Cats can't learn to interact predictably as well.

P.2 - Which is less needy? Cats win this round. You can leave cats for periods of time, but dogs depend on you daily.

P.3 - Which fits human personalities better? Depends - Cats fit laid back styles; dogs fit active styles. Both win this round; it is up to the owner.



What? Who's the smarter pet? Isn't it obvious?

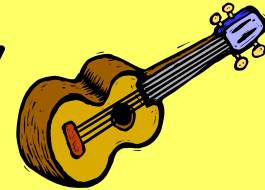
**EXPOSITORY (HOW-TO)
ESSAY PROMPT EXAMPLE
BRAINSTORMED INTO 3 PARAGRAPHS**

How to Teach Yourself to Play Guitar

P.1 - Practice daily (5 out of 7 days minimum) for at least a half hour.

P.2 - Practice the chords and hand positions silently while watching TV or talking to a friend.

P.3 - Set small goals and practice correctly so you won't learn bad habits.

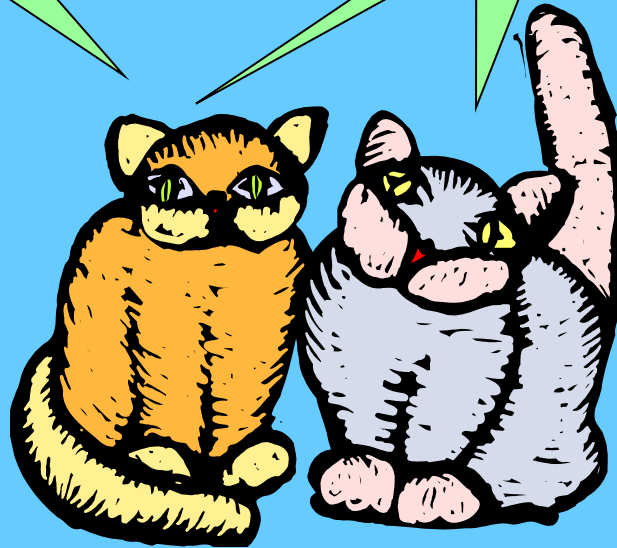


My English teacher helped me decide to write my expository "how-to" essay on teaching yourself how to play guitar since I'm an expert. I looked up some tips on the Internet and chose three steps to focus on for my three body paragraphs.

Could you tell us about some of the other parts of the essay?

Yeah, you know, like how to do write the introduction.

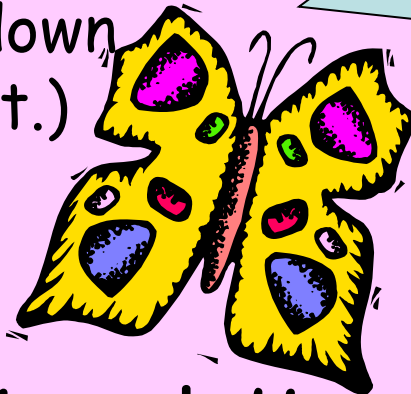
Uh huh. I always mess that up.



THE INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

Introductory Paragraph Rules:

1. Keep it short.
2. **Thesis statement** - Make it the last sentence in the introductory paragraph.
3. Choose a good lead:
 - **Triangle** (Start with a broad idea and narrow down to your thesis statement.)
 - Quotation
 - Question
 - Dialogue
 - **Strange, Mystery, Unusual, Unexpected**



When you are in a timed-writing situation, make the introduction and conclusion very brief!

KINDS OF INTRODUCTIONS

Triangle

Room 131 - A Descriptive Essay

Most people alive today probably remember some of their classrooms. Several of the rooms were probably comfortable, but a few may have been unpleasant. No matter how long the Class of 2012 lives, though, we will never forget our incredible English II class - Room 131.

(1.) Sentence #1 starts "broad and general" by talking about "most people" and "some...classrooms."

(2.) Sentence #2 narrows it down, saying "Several" and then "a few."

(3.) Sentence #3, the thesis statement, narrows it to one classroom.

This is the Triangle.

1. Most people...some of their classrooms.
2. Several of the rooms...
...a few may have...
3. ...our
incredible
English II
class
Rm. 131

KINDS OF INTRODUCTIONS

My Ideal Bedroom: A Descriptive Essay

Start with a famous quotation...

"Quotation"

"Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity!" Henry David Thoreau writes in *Walden* about the ideal life, and these same words would be perfect to describe the ideal bedroom. Some bedrooms are...

My Ideal Bedroom: A Descriptive Essay

Start with a question...

Question?

"Who's there?" I yelled again at the front door, when someone finally yelled back, "Surprise! It's *Extreme Makeover Home Edition* and you won a bedroom remodel!" I ran to the door...

KINDS OF INTRODUCTIONS

"Dialogue"

My Ideal Bedroom: A Descriptive Essay

Start with dialogue - people talking...

"No, Mom, I'm way too old for that; it's ugly."

"Now, Honey, you're never too old for pretty flowers. Isn't this wallpaper adorable? Ooh! A butterfly!"

This is how The Room has always been decorated and how it came to be in its present state. I am hoping...

**Strange, Mystery,
Unusual, Unexpected**

Ideal Bedroom: A Descriptive Essay

Start with something unexpected or weird...

Spider weaves its own web, and hummingbird builds its nest. Bear makes its den, and mole digs its cozy home in the earth. Similarly, human youths want to fashion their own rooms to suit their adolescent needs. The ideal human youth nest, more commonly known as the bedroom...

Students, do you remember the 4-Square organization chart? Let's use the 4-Square to organize an EXPOSITORY essay: "The Perfect Bedroom Makeover."

OK, and may we please use the vertical pulled-apart 4-Square? We want to try using that format.



Four-Square

This 4-Square works for these four modes: **descriptive**, **expository**, **persuasive**, and **reflective**.

Paragraph 2

Transition
word/phrase

Example

Detail / Vivid

Detail / Vivid

Detail / Vivid

Paragraph 3

Transition
word/phrase

Example

Detail / Vivid

Detail / Vivid

Detail / Vivid

Introduction (Paragraph 1)

Thesis statement last sentence in introduction.

Paragraph 4

Transition
word/phrase

Example

Detail / Vivid

Detail / Vivid

Detail / Vivid

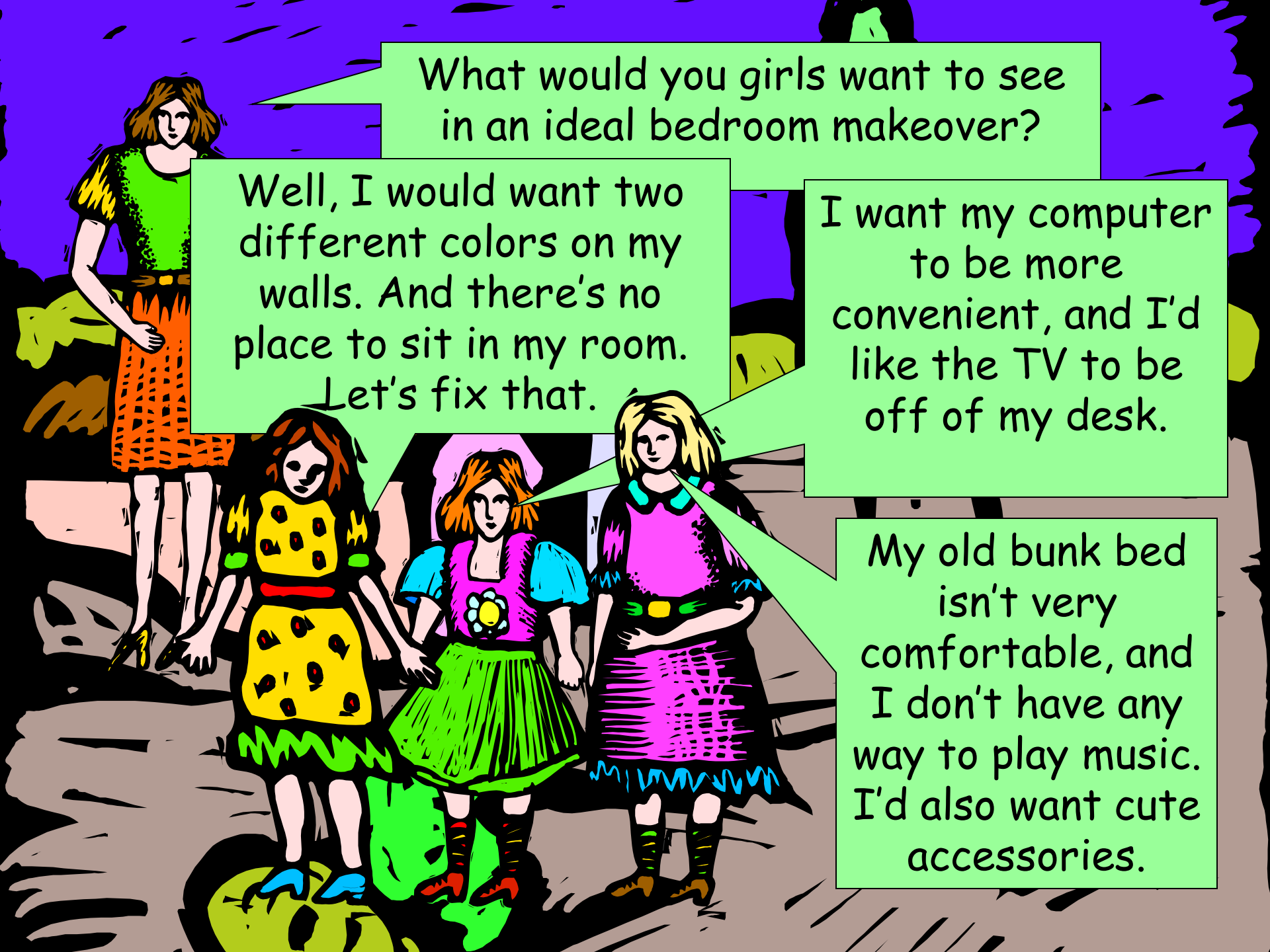
Conclusion

Transition
word/phrase

(Last paragraph)

Wrap-up sentence - Personal
reflective sentence, question,
exclamation, future prediction...

Make some changes in this 4-Square if you are writing in the **narrative** mode.



What would you girls want to see in an ideal bedroom makeover?

Well, I would want two different colors on my walls. And there's no place to sit in my room. Let's fix that.

I want my computer to be more convenient, and I'd like the TV to be off of my desk.

My old bunk bed isn't very comfortable, and I don't have any way to play music. I'd also want cute accessories.

A Successful Bedroom Makeover

Intro. (p.1) Thesis: Perfect room redo has **color, communication, comfort.**

Beginning

para.2

Trans: **To begin with**, color is...

(EX) **color**

(D)walls (V) bed wall cool like water; desk wall warm like sun

(D) bed linens (V) white and crisp feel like spa

(D)accessories (V) bright splashes take you to destinations

Middle

para.3

Trans: **Along with color**, communication...

(EX) **communication**

(D)computer (V) close by like extra brain

(D)TV (V) stored for optional visits to reality

(D)music (V) surround sound is one with listener

End

para.4

Trans: **In addition**, the issue of comfort...

(EX) **comfort**

(D)comfortable chair (V) like sitting on happiness

(D)desk and chair (V) should contribute to good G.P.A.

(D)bed (V) should be firm support but like sleeping on a cloud

Conclusion (Last paragraph) Trans: **In the end**,

...the bedroom makeover is a success when focusing on color, planning for communications, and creating for comfort.

Body
Paragraphs

THE BODY

para.2

Trans: To begin with, color is...

(EXAMPLE) color is essential for defining areas...

(DETAIL) walls (VIVID) bed wall cool water; desk wall warm, sunny

(DETAIL) bed linens (VIVID) white and crisp feel like spa

(DETAIL) accessories (VIVID) bright splashes take you away



para.3

Trans: Along with color, communication is important...

(EXAMPLE) communication is important for personalizing...

(DETAIL) computer (VIVID) close by like extra brain

(DETAIL) TV (VIVID) stored for optional visits to reality

(DETAIL) music (VIVID) surround sound is one with listener



para.4

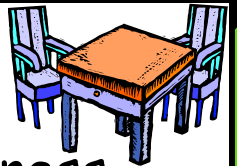
Trans: In addition, the issue of comfort is...

(EXAMPLE) comfort is probably the most important...

(DETAIL) comfortable chair / (VIVID) like sitting on happiness

(DETAIL) desk & chair / (VIVID) should contribute to good G.P.A.

(DETAIL) bed / (VIVID) firm support but like sleeping on a cloud



THE BODY

Each body paragraph has the following elements:

- Transition word(s)/phrase: This links the paragraphs together.
- Example: The example (reason, explanation, proof) supports the thesis statement/main idea.
- Details: The details begin elaboration on the example.
- Vivids: The vivids finish the elaboration and add style with sensory images and figurative language.

Four Square Paragraph 2 Outline

para. 2

Trans: To begin with, color is...

Example: color is essential for defining areas...

Detail: walls / Vivid: bed wall cool color like water; desk wall warm color like sun

Detail: bed linens / Vivid: white, crisp; feel like spa

Detail: accessories / Vivid: bright splashes take you away to places...



THE CONCLUSION

Four-Square Conclusion:

1. Transition word(s)/phrase
2. Wrap-up Sentence (Thesis statement w/ three examples included)
3. Personal Reflective Sentence
4. Question or Exclamation

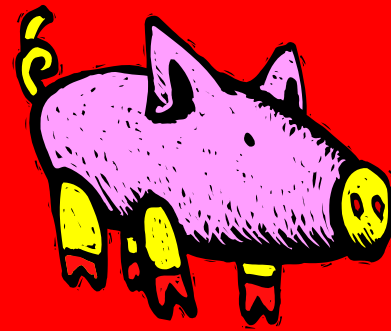
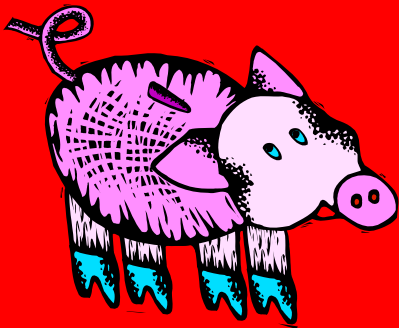
Example: Thus color, communication, and comfort are bedroom-makeover priorities. Attend to them, and the job is a success. Without colorful, cozy rooms, how could we ever sleep dreamily?

Traditional Conclusion:

1. Transition word(s)/phrase
2. Re-state Thesis (May include examples or leave them out.)
3. Make a future prediction.

Example: In the end, the bedroom makeover is a success when we focus on color, plan for communications, and create for comfort. Keep the rules of decorating in mind, and you will be at ease in the snug, relaxing bedroom of your dreams.

We're Patty, Pearl, and Pilar,
middle school students.
We'll write a narrative essay about
our first day in middle school.



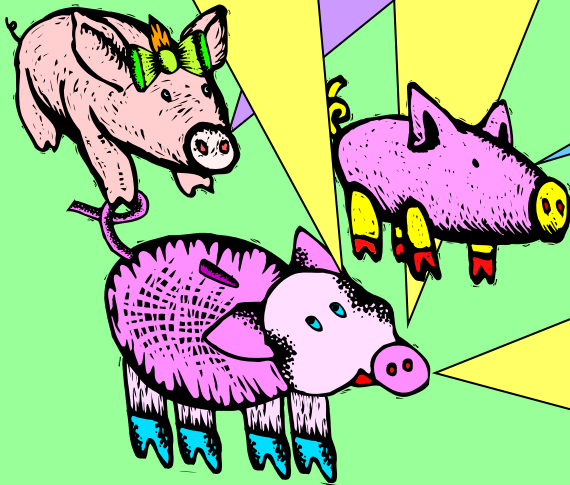
NARRATIVE

Listen about our first middle school day. It was rotten.

OK, first, they gave us top lockers, and we had to switch them for low ones. Embarrassing! Morons! Respect pigs' petite stature! And everyone knows pigs are afraid of heights.

Yuh, it's not like this is something only pigs know. Man.

In P.E. we had to throw the basketball in the hoop. Uh... have you seen our hands? And the dribbling! The sweating! And we painted our nails for today! Impossible!



They had something called "ham" in the cafeteria. Are you kidding? Ham? It smelled like... Did it sort of smell like Aunt Milly? No, that can't be... Well, it was disgusting and too salty. That's it. Too salty. And there's just something about it that kind of makes me sick at my stomach...

Patty, Pearl and Pilar: Day One in Middle School

P. 2 Time trans: First...

Event #1 - top lockers

Detail-top and low / Vivid-tiptoes v. belly

Detail-top ones / Vivid-disrespect pigs' petiteness

Detail-top so high / Vivid-pigs known to be acrophobic

P. 3 Time trans: Then...

Event #2 - ham lunch

Detail-big slice / Vivid-smelled like Aunt Milly

Detail-deja vu / Vivid-reminded of something couldn't quite remember

Detail-Oh yeah / Vivid-far too salty!

P.1 Who? 3 Pigs/ What? Problems/
Where? M.S./ When? First Day/
Why? Pigs don't normally go to middle school

P. 4 Time trans: Later...

Event #3 - basketball

Detail-dribble / Vivid-hard slap w/hand

Detail-sweat / Vivid-running causes more moisture than just pleasant glow

Detail-refuse / Vivid-ruins nail polish

At last...

Last paragraph

Big ending

Went to principal's office to say, "Pigs - attractive, gifted, sensitive students - need a much more exclusive learning environment."

NARRATIVE INTRODUCTION

P.1 Who? 3 Pigs
What? Problems
Where? M.S
When? First Day
Why? Pigs don't normally go to middle school



It was the first day of school. Patty, Pearl, and Pilar Porcine toddled in the door of People Middle School, snorting wetly, their little close-set eyes shining with excitement. They received their locker assignments, and it was then that the problems began.

BODY

P.2

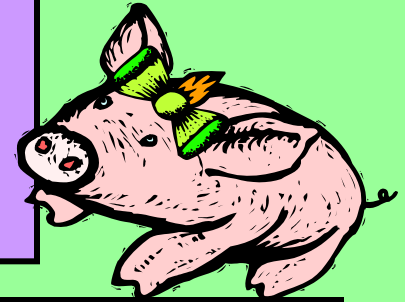
Time trans: First...

Event #1 - top lockers

Detail-top and low / Vivid-tiptoes v.belly

Detail-top ones / Vivid-disrespect pigs' petiteness

Detail-top so high / Vivid-pigs known to be acrophobic



First, Pearl asked her sisters, "Top lockers? These top ones require tippytoes, and the low ones take bellycrawling." It was clear to the girls that the top lockers disrespected pigs' well-known petite stature. As the piglets made an exchange for lockers at the porkbelly-level, they discussed how it could be possible for people to have overlooked the obvious: Pigs are famous acrophobics - they fear heights. How embarrassing. How humiliating. Middle school is bad.

BODY

P. 3

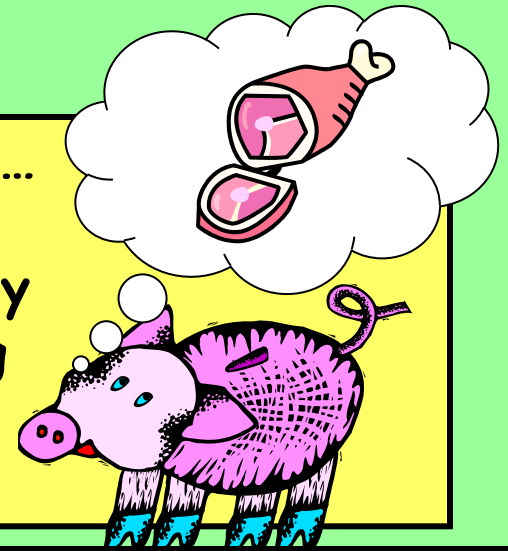
Time trans: Then...

Event #2 - ham lunch

Detail-big slice / Vivid-smelled like Aunt Milly

Detail-deja vu / Vivid-reminded of something
couldn't quite remember

Detail-Oh yeah / Vivid-far too salty!



Then it was lunchtime. Pilar held out her tray, and a big slice of... what? HAM? Yes, it was ham. Ham was put on her tray. What was that smell? It reminded her of Aunt Milly. Aunt Milly? That is odd. Oh! One of those déjà vu things happened. What does that ham remind Pilar of... It is something familiar but...Oh! The ham is salty. That must be it! She is remembering that she doesn't like salty... No, that's not it exactly, yet what exactly *is* it then? Finally, she ate it, but she felt urpy. She guessed that ham was maybe some kind of chicken.

BODY

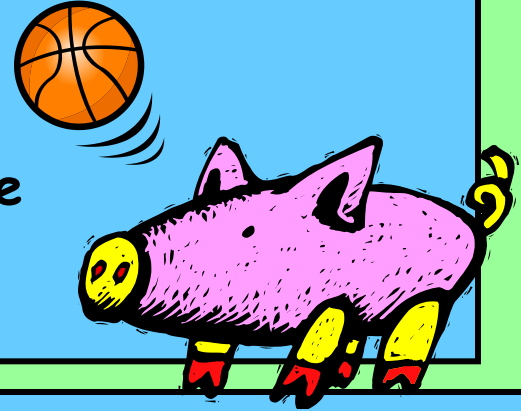
P.4 Time trans: Later...

Event #3 - basketball

Detail-dribble / Vivid-hard slap w/hand

Detail-sweat / Vivid-running causes more moisture than just pleasant glow

Detail-refuse / Vivid-ruins nail polish



Later, in P.E. class, the girls were herded onto the basketball court. Patty remarked that a pig's hoof is an inferior dribbling tool. Her sweet pigskin was at a disadvantage when exceeding glow stage in a waterfall of sour sweat. Finally, "I refuse!" sobbed Patty. "I will not participate in an activity which threatens to demolish the glitter-polish pedicure I so painstakingly applied to my hoofnails just last evening." No more hoops were played and the girls received a glare from the P.E. teacher.

LAST PARAGRAPH

Last Paragraph

Trans: At last...

Big ending: Went to principal's office to claim discrimination and say, "Pigs - attractive, gifted, sensitive students - need a much more exclusive learning environment."



At last, all three little pigs marched right into the principal's office to demand their rights. Pearl claimed discrimination against petite folk, Patty claimed discrimination against attractive individuals, and Pilar claimed discrimination against low-salt eaters and people confused by the general concept of ham. All claimed that pigs were too attractive, gifted, and sensitive for this learning environment. The principal agreed, signed them out, and sent them to the head cafeteria cook, Mrs. B. B. Wolf, to get refunds on their lunch tickets. She asked them to sit down and wait while she had a bite.

Now you have an overview of the writing modes. They are alike, each having a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Narrative writing, however, is different from descriptive, expository, persuasive, and reflective because it is about storytelling. A narrative essay is chronological; it is sequential. The other modes are not.

The other modes are similar in that they have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. They differ, though: Descriptive tells about, expository explains or informs, persuasive gives an opinion, and reflective shares thoughts.

It may seem difficult to remember all about the modes of writing, but all you really need to do is to pay attention to the prompt and answer it completely. Then the mode will take care of itself.

It is the structure of the essay - the organization and unity of your writing - that you need to attend to. Four-Square will help you to organize, unify, focus, develop, and elaborate. It is difficult during timed writings to remember the structure and requirements of formal writing, so an essay writing formula - an organizational chart - can be a lifesaver.

If you review the ways the modes of writing are similar and different and get comfortable with an organizational structure, you'll be ready to write to any prompt in any mode on any day!

Would you like a cup of chocolate?

No, thank you. I want to go practice writing in different modes.

