

Online Tutoring Lesson Plan: Expository Composition for College Freshman

One-Hour Session

Lesson Objectives

- Understand the purpose and structure of expository composition.
- Develop a clear thesis statement.
- Organize supporting points logically.
- Practice drafting and revising expository paragraphs.

Materials Needed

- Stable internet connection and video conferencing platform (Zoom, Teams, etc.).
- Student's assignment prompt (if available).
- Sample expository essay or excerpt.
- Note-taking tools (Word document, Google Docs, or paper and pen).

Lesson Outline

0:00–0:05 | Introduction and Warm-Up

- Greet the student and establish rapport.
- Ask about previous writing experience and any concerns about expository writing.
- Briefly review the goals for the session.

0:05–0:15 | Understanding Expository Composition

- Define expository writing: Explain that it's meant to inform, explain, or describe a topic clearly and logically.
- Discuss common features: thesis statement, supporting evidence, logical structure.
- Share and analyze a short sample expository essay or paragraph.

0:15–0:30 | Planning and Organizing

- Review the student's assignment prompt (if provided).
- Discuss how to brainstorm topics and narrow down a focus.

- Guide the student in developing a thesis statement.
- Demonstrate outlining: main points, supporting details, logical order.
- Student creates a brief outline for their essay topic.

0:30–0:50 | Drafting a Paragraph

- Explain paragraph structure (topic sentence, supporting sentences, concluding sentence).
- Model writing a paragraph based on the outline.
- Have the student write a draft paragraph on their topic.
- Discuss clarity, coherence, and use of evidence.

0:50–1:00 | Review and Next Steps

- Read and review the student's paragraph together.
- Provide constructive feedback: strengths and areas for improvement.
- Discuss revision strategies: refining thesis, improving transitions, clarifying support.
- Set goals for continued drafting and revision after the session.
- Answer any questions and encourage follow-up if needed.

Assessment and Follow-Up

- Informal assessment through paragraph review and discussion.
- Recommend resources for further practice (writing center, online guides).
- Schedule or suggest next session focusing on revision or expanding the essay.

Tips for Online Tutoring Success

- Keep communication clear and supportive.
- Use screen sharing and collaborative documents to engage the student.
- Pause frequently to check for understanding and participation.
- Encourage questions and self-reflection throughout the session.