

**Sharing Your Expertise**

**Writing Resource Packet**

*Deepening Your Understanding and Communicating What You Have Learned*

**Save this packet**, you will use it as a resource each time you

write about **how living in a group helps animals.**

As you finish each step, record the date on the Sharing Your Expertise Record Sheet.

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| **Writing Resource Packet**  You will follow these Steps to Write an Informative/Explanatory Piece |
| Learn from a Model |
| Write an Introduction |
| Write Proof Paragraph 1 |
| Write Proof Paragraph 2 |
| Write a Conclusion |
| Revise and Edit |
| Add a Visual |
| Share and Celebrate! |



**Analyze a Model**

Read the model. Then follow the directions to analyze the piece.

*Color code the model below, using Painted Essay colors to show the introduction, focus statement, proof paragraphs and conclusion.*

Living in a group helps animals to survive. Meerkats are one type of animal that live in a group. A group of meerkats is called a mob. Meerkat mobs are made up of 5 to 30 meerkats that are usually related to each other. Living in a mob is beneficial in many ways, but two of the most important ways are that it helps them to get food and to defend themselves.

To get food, a meerkat mob spreads out and each meerkat uses its sense of smell to find insects, scorpions, rodents, and small lizards. If one meerkat finds a larger animal, other meerkats help to catch, kill, and eat it. This is helpful because it allows meerkats to catch larger animals than they could catch alone.

To defend themselves, meerkats take turns watching out for danger. One or two meerkats stand guard on a mound of dirt or go up a tree while the other meerkats eat. After about an hour other meerkats take over guard duty. If a guard meerkat spots danger it makes a loud, barking sound so the other meerkats run back to their burrows. This is helpful because the meerkats can eat without worrying about being unexpectedly attacked.

In order to get food and defend themselves, meerkat mobs use teamwork. Meerkats are preyed on by many larger animals, but when they work together, they keep each other safe.



**Write!**

On your own, write, revise and edit the **introduction** for your informative/explanatory essay.



*The first paragraph of your essay is called the INTRODUCTION. The job of the introduction is to give some background information, or context, so that the reader can understand the piece. In your introduction, provide context by explaining what a group of wolves is called and that wolves live in this group.*

*The introduction ends in a FOCUS STATEMENT. The FOCUS STATEMENT tells the main idea of your piece. In this model, the focus statement is one sentence containing two points that the writer will explore.*

***Analyze***

Read the model introduction below. Lightly shade the context red and the focus statement green (stem), yellow (point one) and blue (point two).

Living in a group helps animals to survive. Meerkats are one type of animal that live in a group. A group of meerkats is called a mob. Meerkat mobs are made up of 5 to 30 meerkats that are usually related to each other. Living in a mob is beneficial in many ways, but two of the most important ways are that it helps them to get food and to defend themselves.

***Talk***

With a partner talk about what you are going to write in your introduction about **animals in groups**. Check to be sure you each have clear context and a clear focus statement.

***Write***

On a piece of lined paper, write the introduction for your piece.

***Revise and Edit***

When you have finished, revise and edit your paragraph so that your writing is clear and correct.





**Write!**

On your own, write, revise and edit **proof paragraph one** of your informative/explanatory essay.

*The next paragraph is called PROOF PARAGRAPH 1. Its job is to give evidence and reasons to support the first point of your focus. In this essay, your first point is that living in groups helps wolves to find food. Use the evidence from the “food” part of your graphic organizer to write this paragraph.*

***Analyze***

Read the model proof paragraph about meerkats below. Underline the topic and concluding sentences. Lightly shade the evidence from the text and the elaboration yellow.

Meerkat mobs work together to get food. First, the mob spreads out and each meerkat uses its sense of smell to find insects, scorpions, rodents, and small lizards. If one meerkat finds a larger animal, other meerkats help to catch, kill, and eat it. This is helpful because it allows meerkats to catch larger animals than they could catch alone.

***Talk***

Choose three pieces of evidence from your graphic organizer to use in your writing. With a partner, point to each piece you have chosen and talk about what you are going to write.

***Write***

Reread what you have already written. Then, underneath the introduction, write the first proof paragraph for your piece about **animals in groups**.

***Revise and Edit***

When you have finished, revise and edit your paragraph so that your writing is clear and correct.





**Write!**

On your own, write, revise and edit **proof paragraph two** of your informative/explanatory essay.

*The next paragraph is called PROOF PARAGRAPH 2. Its job is to give evidence and reasons to support the second point of your focus. In this essay, your second point is that living in groups helps wolves to defend the pack. Use the evidence from the “defend” part of your graphic organizer to write this paragraph.*

***Analyze***

Read the model proof paragraph about meerkats below. Underline the topic and concluding sentences. Lightly shade the evidence from the text and the elaboration blue.

Another way that living in a group helps meerkats is when they take turns watching out for danger. One or two meerkats stand guard on a mound of dirt or go up a tree while the other meerkats eat. After about an hour other meerkats take over guard duty. If a guard meerkat spots danger it makes a loud, barking sound so the other meerkats run back to their burrows. This is helpful because the meerkats can eat without worrying about being unexpectedly attacked.

***Talk***

Choose three pieces of evidence from your graphic organizer to use in your writing. With a partner, point to each piece you have chosen and talk about what you are going to write.

***Write***

Reread what you have already written. Then, underneath the first proof paragraph, write the second proof paragraph for your piece about **animals in groups**.

***Revise and Edit***

When you have finished, revise and edit your paragraph so that your writing is clear and correct.



**Write!**

On your own, write, revise and edit the **conclusion** for your informative/explanatory essay.



*The final paragraph is called a CONCLUSION. Its job is to wrap up the piece.*

*In your conclusion, you will repeat your focus, but you should also add a sentence or two of reflection on how living in groups makes life easier for the animal. This answers the question of “So what?” or “*How does teamwork help make the tough life of your animal a little easier?”

***Analyze***

Read the model conclusion about meerkats below. Find and underline the restated focus. Then put a box around the “So what?” statement.

In order to get food and defend themselves, meerkat mobs use teamwork. Meerkats are preyed on by many larger animals, but when they work together, they keep each other safe.

***Talk***

With a partner talk about what you are going to write. Check to be sure you have clearly restated the focus and think about an answer to the question of “So what?” for your piece. In this case, it answers the question of “How does teamwork help make the tough life of my animal a little easier?”.

***Write***

Reread what you have already written. Then, on a piece of lined paper, write the conclusion for your piece about **animals in groups**.

***Revise and Edit***

When you have finished, revise and edit your paragraph so that your writing is clear and correct.

At the end of your piece, list the sources you used in your research.

Be sure to include the title or website address and the author.



**Final Revision and Editing**

Use the checklist below to put the final touches on your paper.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristics of an Effective Informative/Explanatory Writing Piece** | **Got it!** | | |
| My piece shows the knowledge and understanding gained through my research. |  |  |  |
| I have an introduction that gives the reader some needed information about the topic. |  |  |  |
| I state my focus clearly and my writing stays focused. |  |  |  |
| My information is grouped in paragraphs. |  |  |  |
| Evidence from the text helps the reader to clearly understand my focus. |  |  |  |
| I use linking words to connect ideas. |  |  |  |
| I use facts, definitions and details from the text to explain my ideas. |  |  |  |
| I use illustrations to help the reader understand information and ideas. (optional) |  |  |  |
| I use science words to show that I am knowledgeable about this topic. |  |  |  |
| I have a conclusion that restates the focus of the piece and ends with a sentence that answers the question, “So what?” or specifically, “How does teamwork help make the tough life of my animal a little easier?”. |  |  |  |
| I use more than one source and list my sources. |  |  |  |
| Spelling, capitalization and punctuation is correct. |  |  |  |



**Add a Visual!**

(Optional) Choose from the ideas below.

You may want to add:

* A labeled drawing of a wolf pack obtaining food or defending the pack.
* A poster of other interesting facts about wolves.
* A poster of important vocabulary words related to wolves.

**Share and Celebrate!**

Congratulations! You are an expert (and a scholar!).

Your teacher will share plans for sharing and celebration!

If you want to learn even more, check out these resources on page 31 of your book.

