

Core A Comp & Lit *The Endless Steppe* Expository Assignment

Expository writing is used to convey factual information. It is the language of learning and understanding the world around us. If you've ever read an encyclopedia entry, a how-to article on a website, or a chapter in a textbook, then you've encountered examples of expository writing.

This week, you will be doing a bit of research for your homework assignment. Our newest book, *The Endless Steppe*, is set in a Siberian Labor Camp during World War II, after Poland had been invaded by both Germany and Russia (formerly The Soviet Union). You will be provided with 2 informational sources to help you understand the setting (time and place) of our novel. Your job is to **write 2 paragraphs about what you have learned from these sources**, as if you were trying to explain the information to someone else.

Step 1: Watch the brief video overview about World War II (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUqy-OQvVtI>) and read the PDF posted to Weebly about the invasion of Poland. Take notes as you read the article by making a Key Word Outline of the information, recording the main sub-topics and the key details.

- For your outline, do not write in complete sentences. Instead, use only key words that will help you remember the facts. You must be very careful not to plagiarize when you write your paragraphs, and using key words instead of sentences will help you avoid this downfall.
- This outline should consist of a heading which states the topic of the article and 5-8 bullet points: one bullet point per main point of the article. Each bullet point should have 3-5 key words to jog your memory.

(Sample Format)

Topic: Invasion of Poland during WWII

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Step 2: Using your Key Word Outline, choose 2 related ideas to present in each paragraph. When you begin to write your paragraph, make sure you are following our format for a strong paragraph.

- I. Topic Sentence that addresses the 2 related ideas
 - A. First Assertion (1st idea)
 1. Evidence
 2. Commentary
 3. Transition (or transition wording at the end of the commentary or 2nd assertion)
 - B. Second Assertion (2nd idea)
 1. Evidence

2. Commentary

C. Concluding Sentence (with transition wording to the next set of related ideas)

Step 3: Have a parent proofread your article for both content and grammar, making suggestions for any improvements. Parents, please use the checklist to ensure that your student has followed all the assignment instructions:

Expository Writing Checklist

- ✓ Student uses strong, purposeful writing that clearly explains their topic ✓
Each paragraph includes a topic and concluding sentence that explains 2 related ideas from the Key Word Outline
- ✓ Student uses appropriate transitions between sentences and paragraphs ✓
Must include evidence from the provided sources that supports their idea and helps the reader to fully understand the topic
- ✓ Must use a variety of sentence openers per paragraph
- ✓ No “I” or “you” or “me” or “my” etc.
- ✓ No use of “you” or “your”
- ✓ No contractions
- ✓ Use MLA format

Step 4: Once all revisions have been made, students should print out the final copy and staple this signed assignment sheet and the Key Word Outline to the back of their paper copy.

I have proofread my student’s work and given the appropriate feedback for potential revisions.

_____ Parent signature
Date