An Explanatory Essay:
- Introduces a topic and develops ideas related to the topic
- Includes facts, definitions, quotations, and details to support and develop ideas
- Uses precise language and content words
- Uses linking words (transition words) to connect ideas
- Provides a conclusions that relates to the topic

How does the writer organize information?
- **Paragraph 1**
  - The writer introduces the topic and hooks the reader through the use of questioning. The writer introduces 3 things that will be discussed in the body paragraphs of the essay.
- **Paragraph 2**
  - The writer talks about the *first* item mentioned in the introductory paragraph
- **Paragraph 3**
  - The writer talks about the *second* item mentioned in the introductory paragraph
- **Paragraph 4**
  - The writer talks about the *third* item mentioned in the introductory paragraph
- **Paragraph 5**
  - The writer gives a final statement that reemphasizes or restates information in the introductory paragraph. The writer also restates the three items that were discussed in the body paragraphs.

**Topic Possibilities:**
- **Friendship** - Everyone needs friends. What qualities make someone a good friend? How can you be a friend for someone who needs one? Write an essay that explains ways to be a good friend

- **Jobs** - People do all kinds of jobs. Some people build. Others serve. Some teach. Others sell. Some people work on ships at sea, and others in skyscrapers in cities. What kind of job would you like to do? As a future worker, write an essay that names a job you would like, describes the work, and tells why you would like it.
• **An Admirable Person** - We all have people we admire. They might be family members or friends. They might be singers, dancers, or actors. They might even be fictional characters. Whom do you admire most? Write an essay that names a person you admire and describes the qualities that make you like the person.

• **Food** - Most people have a favorite food. What is yours? Is the food a common one that most other kids would know about, or a really special type? Is it sweet or spicy? In an essay, name your favorite food and describe to your classmates how it looks, smells, and tastes. Tell why you like it so much.

• **Home** - Most people can imagine a dream home. What would yours be? Big or small? In the country or in the city? How many floors? Would it be underground or up in a tree? As a young person, write an essay describing your dream home to a parent/guardian, sibling, or classmate.

**Where You Will Find Directions/Instructions**
• Unit 12 Lesson 2 - Begins discussing explanatory writing
• Unit 12 Lesson 4 - Begins prewriting/brainstorming
• Unit 13 Lesson 5 - Turn in your outline and first draft for a grade (drop box)
• Unit 15 Lesson 5 - Turn in your final draft and checklist for a grade (drop box)