

3. Draft

Now it is time to begin the first draft of your informative/explanatory text. Remember, your draft does not have to be perfect! This is the time to use your notes, get your ideas down in some sort of organized way, and have fun. You will have time to revise your writing later. Start by drafting your informative/explanatory text on a computer or on a separate sheet of paper. Tell about the yeti crab, a new species that has been discovered in recent years.

Writer's Craft: Using Linking Words and Phrases

Linking words and phrases help writing flow smoothly. They also help readers understand how ideas are linked within and across categories. Here are some common linking words and phrases.

Linking words

also, although, additionally, and, another, because, before, especially, first, finally, however, more, surprisingly, then, therefore, whatever

Linking phrases

for example, even though, in addition, in contrast, one reason, as a result, exploring further

The author of the mentor text uses linking words and phrases in the fourth paragraph.

LINKING WORDS AND PHRASES

Read this section of the mentor text. Circle the linking words and phrases that connect ideas.

The woolly mammoth died out about 10,000 years ago. Scientists are not sure why it became extinct. Some scientists believe that a massive climate change caused the world to grow warmer and the glaciers to melt. As oceans rose, the mammoth's habitat disappeared. Therefore, the mammoth had a difficult time finding food. Another theory suggests that humans may have hunted the mammoth to extinction. Whatever the cause, the woolly mammoth disappeared from most of its territory at the end of the last ice age.

Try It!

Write Your First Draft

On a computer or a separate sheet of paper, create the draft of your response to the writing assignment. Remember to use linking words in your writing. Use this drafting checklist to help you as you write.

- ✓ A good beginning gets your reader's attention. You can begin with a question, a quotation, or an interesting fact about your species.
- ✓ Be sure to state your main idea in a clear topic sentence in the first paragraph.
- ✓ Be sure every paragraph includes a strong supporting detail for the topic, as well as explanations and facts that elaborate on the detail.
- ✓ Use the details you wrote during Step 2: Organize.
- ✓ Illustrate your text with visuals, such as photographs, maps, or graphics.
- ✓ Try to write a conclusion that is satisfying, sums up your paper in a memorable way, and leaves the reader with something to think about.

Tips for Writing Your First Draft

- As you start writing, make sure to use your graphic organizer to plan your paragraphs.
- Focus on ideas, not details. Since you will revise and edit later, you can fix the details then. In drafting, it's the ideas that count.
- Sometimes students write better after physical activity. If you get stuck, take a break, stand up, and do a few stretches. Then try again!