



FSA WRITING TARGETS FOR SUCCESS

1. UNPACKING THE PROMPT

TASK → **WHAT** should you write about?

AUDIENCE → **WHO** are you writing to?

PURPOSE → **WHY** are you writing? (to inform/explain or argue)

Think writing mode...
 informative/explanatory OR argumentative

CIRCLE the mode.

UNDERLINE the task.

BOX the keywords.



Watch the Video

Seminole County Public Schools | Department of Teaching and Learning

1 READ AND UNPACK THE PROMPT

Text marking and unpacking the prompt.

The article, *Good News for Bees*, is about why bees and butterflies are important. Write an **informational essay** that **explains why bees and butterflies are important**. Your essay must be based on ideas and all of the information found in the article.

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- Plan your essay
- Write your essay
- Revise and edit your essay

Your written response should be in the form of a multi-paragraph essay. This task should take you approximately 60 minutes to complete, including the time you spend reading, planning, writing, revising, and editing.

Circle key words for the writing "mode." (Informational, opinion)

Underline the writing task.

Box key words that tell us what the task wants us to do. [explain, explain how, explain why, compare, describe,

2. PLANNING/BRAINSTORMING

Clustering/Mapping/Webbing

Listing/Bullets

Outline

Word Cloud (after unpacking the prompt)

The Big 6: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

3. CONTROLLING IDEA > INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY

A controlling idea is a full-sentence observation about the topic that is true of all passages and could be true in the world as well. **Check it:**

1. Is it on topic?
2. Is it true of source 1?
3. Is it true of source 2, 3, 4?
4. Can it be applied to the world as well?

4. CITATIONS

Facts/evidence extracted from the text to support the response (claim/controlling idea) must be cited. This includes paraphrasing and direct quotations.

WHEN IN DOUBT, CITE IT OUT!

Remember the evidence is **WHAT** is important and the elaboration is **WHY** it is important. Students should show original work and this is accomplished through elaboration. *Think: Why is this fact/evidence important enough for me to use in this essay? How does this evidence support my explanation or claim?*

According to source 1...
Author John Doe states, "..." (14).

In the article, "Science: Fact or Fiction" states that... (4).
In paragraph 10...

CLAIM/COUNTER CLAIM > ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

Claim: What is your argument to the reader who may/not initially agree with you?

Counter Claim: What would someone who disagrees with you say?

Evidence: Prove them wrong using evidence from the passage(s).

Great Practice— <http://www.procon.org/>