

Expository writing is a means of communication that we use to inform, explain, describe, present information, or persuade. The organization or structure of an expository text depends greatly on the form used (a letter, a journal entry, a newspaper article, an editorial, a brochure, a map, etc). Within this general frame, there are seven basic domains of expository text which, at this level, can be practised at the paragraph level: *definition, description, process* (time order or listing), *classification, analysis, comparison*, and *persuasion*.

- Definition is a form of writing we use when we want to define a topic or subject. Definitions are an important part of any type of writing and are especially important for expository purposes. The question that can be asked here is: *What is being defined?*
- Description is a form of writing used to describe the attributes and features of people, places, or items. Usually in descriptive writing, the main topic is introduced and then the attributes are included in the body of the paragraph. Examples of this domain include travel brochures, descriptions of animals, descriptions of scientific concepts, etc. The questions that we ask here are: *What is being described? What did we learn about the person, animal, or object?*
- Process or Sequence (time order or listing) is a form of writing used if one wishes to inform readers about certain topics by listing events or steps in a sequence or by presenting information in chronological order using time. In process writing, we tell our readers how to get to where they are going, how to put something together or take something apart, how to make something, how to conduct an experiment, or how something works. Words that signal this type of writing are *first, next, before, and after*.

In process paragraphs, chronological or time sequence requires the reader or writer to understand or compose such things as time lines or the sequence of events in a story. Questions that can be asked here are: *What happened first, second, and third? How are items organized in a paragraph: by age, time, etc?*

- Classification is an organizational method we use to arrange groups of people, places, things, or abstract ideas according to a common topic in detail. Classifying events in our lives by likes and dislikes may help with the understanding of this domain of writing. For example, we can classify our favorite and least favorite games, TV shows, or hobbies. Questions that can be asked here are: *Into what categories can you classify these items? How can these items be put into categories?*
- Analysis (cause-effect, problem-solution) is used to discuss causes and effects or to present problems and their solutions. Cause-effect questions that can be asked here sound like: *What happened? Problem-solution questions that can be asked sound like: What were the reasons for this? What caused this to happen? Is there a solution to the problem?*
- Comparison texts show how two or more people, places, or things are alike or different. We use descriptions to illustrate the similarities or differences of the items being compared. Questions that can be asked here are: *How are the items alike? How are these items different?*
- Persuasive writing is used to convince the reader to consider things from the writer's point of view. Usually the text is written to present arguments. Questions that can be asked here are: *What is your position on this topic? What are the reasons for your position?*

## Activity 1

The following paragraphs are related to one general topic: "Loggerhead Turtles". Yet each paragraph has a different type of development (*definition, description, process, classification, analysis, comparison, or persuasion*).

- a. Read the paragraphs and fill in this table with expository types.

Paragraph	Expository Type
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1. The number of loggerhead sea turtles that grow to adulthood is severely limited due to the great reduction of the turtle eggs at the nesting site areas and an increase in land-based predators that raid the nesting sites. However, the greatest threats to the sea turtles' survival are the threats caused by humans. Conservationists are attempting to increase the survival rate by identifying the threats to the sea turtle and classifying things that humans can do to help the survival rate of the turtle and those things that hinder the survival rate. Humans can help by following the guidelines laid out by the Endangered Species Act. This act has identified human threats to the sea turtle, such as gill netting by fishermen, disturbing the nesting sites with artificial light, and harassing the sea turtles while nesting. To eliminate these dangers, laws have been passed to help the sea turtle. Fishermen now have to follow the gill netting laws. It is illegal to harass or kill sea turtles; the lights out policy on many beaches has attempted to eliminate the effects of artificial lighting on the sea turtles nesting behaviors.
2. During the months from May to September, the loggerhead turtle comes ashore to nest at night. First, the turtle crawls out of the sea to the beach in search of the right place to build a nest for its eggs. Once the location is identified, the turtle digs a hole with its flippers that measures "8" wide and "18" deep. Next, the turtle lays around 120 eggs the size of ping pong balls. The turtle then covers the nest by throwing sand over the nest with its flippers. The turtle does this to protect its eggs from predators. Finally, the turtle makes its way back to the sea, and does not return to attend to the nest.
3. The green sea turtle and the loggerhead sea turtle nest along the Atlantic and the Pacific shores of the United States. The green sea turtle is on the endangered list while the loggerhead is listed as threatened. The green sea turtle eats grass, algae and other vegetation and is classified as herbivorous. The loggerhead turtle eats horseshoe crabs, clams, and mussels and is classified as carnivorous. Both sea turtles live in temperate and subtropical waters and tend to stay near the coastline.
4. The loggerhead turtle is a large sea turtle with an exceptionally large head that measures ten inches and weighs between 200 and 350 pounds.
5. Natural predators such as snakes, sea gulls, and raccoons are considered threats to the sea turtles. But human beings are considered to pose the greatest threat to the sea turtles. People threaten the turtles if they disturb the nesting sites or harm the sea turtles at sea. Because of these dangers, the loggerhead sea turtle is considered threatened.
6. The loggerhead sea turtle is threatened. Conservationists are attempting to help the survival rate of the loggerhead turtle by educating the public about the nesting habits of the sea turtles and by passing gill netting regulations for fishermen.
7. The loggerhead has a reddish-brown upper shell and a dull brown to yellowish lower shell. The loggerhead weighs from 200 to 350 pounds and lives in temperate and subtropical waters. This turtle is the most common sea turtle that nests on the shores of the United States. The loggerhead sea turtle feasts on shellfish, clams, horseshoe crabs, and mussels. The loggerhead turtle is classified as threatened.
8. Citizens need to respect the nesting behaviors of loggerhead sea turtles. If the sea turtle is disturbed while finding a nest, the sea turtle will return to the sea. If

sea turtles are disturbed while they are building their nests, they will stop the nesting process and return to the sea. If people continue to disturb the nesting behaviors of the loggerhead sea turtles, they will become endangered. If citizens are interested in saving and preserving the sea turtles, then they need to respect the turtles by observing the *lights out* policies along the beaches and observe the nesting process with trained and permitted individuals.

b. Fill the following graphic organizers in the light of the eight paragraphs above.





