

Writing: Lesson 23

Today the students will practice planning for informative/explanatory prompts in response to text they read.

The following passages will be used in this lesson:

Cities to Visit in Brazil Brazilian Carnival

In the previous section of this curriculum, students learned how to plan for expository prompts using the IRC outline. Remind students that expository, explanatory and informative all mean the same thing –to explain or give information. They will still be using an outline to plan, but instead of planning for random prompts they will be planning for prompts in response to text that they have just read.

For informative writing, we will use an ITC outline to plan for our essay. Instead of reasons (R’s) we will list 3 topics (T’s). This is because for informative writing you will be coming up with 3 topics to inform your reader about (instead of reasons).

Explain to students that for the writing test they will be given 2-4 passages to read that all have a similar topic/theme. After reading the text, they will be given a prompt that directs them to write something about what they just read. That is when they will need to plan their essay and then write a 5 paragraph essay just like they learned in the previous section.

Here are a couple of examples to explain to the students:

- Let’s say you just read three passages on magnetism. You are then directed to write to the following prompt: *Write an informative essay to present to your class about magnetism. Use information from the passages in your essay.*
- Another example is if you were given two passages about pandas. After reading the passages you were given the following prompt: *Your class is researching pandas. Using the information and examples found in the passage set, write an informative essay on pandas.*

As you can see, for both examples your prompt is based on what you just read. Instead of just writing about your favorite animal or special person in your life, you will be writing about information you are given in text. When planning, you will need to come up with your 3 topics (T1, T2, and T3) based on the text.

1. Read both passages aloud to class (or you can read one aloud and have them independently read the other)
2. Write this prompt on the board:
Your teacher has asked that you write a paper about Brazil. Write an explanatory essay about Brazil. Your essay must be based on ideas and information from the passages.
3. Using the ITC outline, model planning for this prompt using the outline below

****When planning for this, remind students that they are not coming up with 3 reasons. They are simply informing/explaining to the reader 3 things about Brazil. They can pick any 3 things they want from the passages, but they have to make sure they are BIG (broad) things that they can write a lot about.**

Example Planning

I Brazil

T1 Cities a. Brasilia b. Rio de Janeiro

T2 Carnival a. history b. music

T3 Costumes a. dressing up b. cultures

C Brazil

Some things to discuss while writing this outline (think aloud as you write this):

-My 3 topics are big topics that I can write a lot about. These are all main topics that are discussed in the passages

-My A's and B's are details/examples to further discuss my 3 topics

For the next part of this lesson you will use the following passages:

Unpredictable Earthquakes

Earthquake Facts

4. Read both passages
5. Write this prompt on the board:
Write an informative essay to present to your class about earthquakes. Use information from the passages in your essay.
6. Using the ITC outline, have students plan for this prompt (5-10 minutes)

Example:

I Earthquakes

T1 Tremor a. cause b. tectonic plates

T2 Seismologists a. study b. tools

T3 Facts a. bullet points 1-6 b. bullet points 7-12

C Earthquakes

Important Teaching Point:

The second source in the text passage is a bulleted list of facts. So my T3 is FACTS and then my A's and B's are just going to be pulling information from those facts. So my "A" will be pulling information from the first 6 bullet points and my "B" will be pulling information from the last 7 bullet points

7. After they have planned, share planning ideas and compile list of examples and non-examples on the board. Discuss what some good topics are (as well as ones that will not work) and make sure their A and B's make sense.
8. Review today's objective – planning for informative/explanatory prompt. Explain that we are still using the ITC outline, we are just choosing 3 topics based on the text we are provided.

Writing: Lesson 23
Document Camera

Directions: Plan for the following prompt

Your teacher has asked that you write a paper about Brazil. Write an explanatory essay about Brazil. Your essay must be based on ideas and information from the passages.

I _____

T1 _____ a. _____

b. _____

T2 _____ a. _____

b. _____

T3 _____ a. _____

b. _____

C _____

Writing: Lesson 23
Practice

Directions: Plan for the following prompt

*Write an informative essay to present to your class about earthquakes.
Use information from the passages in your essay.*

I _____

T1 _____ a. _____

b. _____

T2 _____ a. _____

b. _____

T3 _____ a. _____

b. _____

C _____

Source 1

Cities to Visit in Brazil

1 Brazil is an enormous country located in South America. It is the world’s fifth largest country and it is home to the world’s largest rainforest, the Amazon Rainforest. The rainforest makes up for about 40% of the country’s land area. Brazil is a fascinating country to visit largely due to the fact it is a mixture of cultures, flavors, and tourist destinations. There are various cities that are popular tourist attractions.

Brasilia

2 Located in the Brazilian Highlands, Brasilia is a beautiful, modern city filled with new and creatively designed buildings that attracts the eye of those who love architecture. It is recognized for its’ efficient, forward-thinking city planning. It has a well-planned and organized design that resembles the shape of an airplane. Each section of the plane holds a different district such as residential and business. In 1960, Brasilia was appointed as the capital of Brazil. One significant place to visit in Brasilia is the Three Powers Square which is home to the Presidential Palace, the Congress and the Supreme Court. Another breathtaking site is the Brasilia Cathedral that has a glass roof that resembles hands reaching up to heaven.



Rio de Janeiro



Tourists visit the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro

3 If you are looking for excitement and an animated lifestyle, then Rio de Janeiro is the place to visit. Rio de Janeiro is nicknamed the “city that never sleeps”. This vibrant city, located in southeastern Brazil, is a tourist hotspot. It is a frequently visited city due to its’ famous mountains, landmarks, beaches, and of course the Carnival festival. In Rio de Janeiro, Carnival is a huge celebration filled with street parties, costumes, dancing, music, and fireworks. One of the city’s most **iconic**¹ landmarks is the massive Christ the Redeemer statue that sits on top of Corcovado mountain. Visitors can expect to see beautiful

¹ **iconic** – relating to, or characteristic of an icon



panoramic² views of the Atlantic Ocean, picturesque beaches, and tons of opportunities to explore and have a good time.

São Paulo

4 Located in southeastern Brazil, São Paulo is one of the most popular cities to visit. São Paulo is the largest city in Brazil and based on its population of over 20 million people, it is the



largest city in the world. This city is full of green parks and stunning landscapes. It is a diverse city with many ethnic groups. São Paulo is also known as a “concrete jungle” because visitors come to do business, instead of focusing on sightseeing. Brazil has the world’s third biggest economy and São Paulo is where all the business action happens. Tourists like to stop by the delicious fine-dining restaurants, sophisticated art galleries, and theatres.

² **panoramic** – an unobstructed and wide view of an extensive area in all directions

Source 2

Brazilian Carnival

5 There is no other party in the world like Brazil's Carnival! Rhythmic dancing, energetic music, vibrant costumes, colorful floats, joyful parades and thousands of people having a great time. People from all over the world make it a point to participate in Carnival at least once in their lifetimes. This week-long celebration boasts over 100 block parades and can be compared to Mardi Gras in New Orleans. Rio de Janeiro is party central for Carnival however it is also celebrated throughout the Brazilian states of Bahia and Pernambuco. These annual festivities usually occur 51 days before Easter.



Carnival float

History

6 Carnival celebrations started in the 1830s. Portuguese immigrants brought over the tradition of celebrating before **Lent**³ began and those celebrations blossomed into street parties that became known as Brazil's Carnival. The original celebrations entailed people soaking each other with buckets of water on the streets and throwing mud and food at each other. As you can imagine, these activities usually became unruly and led to street fights and riots. In the late 1800s Carnival became more organized. The streets of Rio de Janeiro would fill with live music, dancing, floats, dancing, street performers, and themed costumes.

8 Today, Carnival in Rio de Janeiro is heavily influenced by the poorest neighborhoods in the city called the favelas. Many of the residents of favelas attend local samba schools and participate in group performances. Every neighborhood in the city has its own street band and over 300 bands participate in the celebrations. Carnival is their opportunity to showcase months of preparation and practice.

³ **Lent** – in the Christian religion, this is an annual season of fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter beginning on Ash Wednesday



Music

9 Carnival is not a true celebration without the tunes of samba blasting in the streets. The sounds of samba originated in the Brazilian state of Bahia but really began to flourish in Rio de Janeiro around the end of the 19th century. Samba is considered the official music of Brazil. It awakens a warm and spirited mood and **cultivates**⁴ lively dancing. Each year musicians enter competitions to showcase their musical masterpieces at Carnival.

Costumes

10 One of the most colorful and eye-catching elements of Carnival are the detailed handmade costumes. A huge part of Carnival is dressing up. It doesn't matter how under-dressed or overdressed you are however the brighter the better. The samba dancers parade through the streets in lavish costumes that audiences rave about. Many of the costumes entail brightly colored feathers. Each samba school has its own themed costumes designed to represent their school. Visitors are welcome to join in on the dancing and celebrations. You don't have to be a part of a samba school to participate. **Spectators**⁵ are encouraged to wear their own costumes and join in on the street party fun.

11 Carnival has the ability to merge cultures, even if only for one week out of the year, and brings people together. The atmosphere is thrilling and the streets are always packed with party-goers who are enjoying the sounds, the food, and the beautiful sites.

⁴ **cultivates** – to promote or produce

⁵ **spectators** – a person who looks or watches; onlooker

Unpredictable Earthquakes

1 An earthquake, also known as a tremor, is the shaking of Earth's surface caused by the shifting of tectonic plates and then rubbing together resulting in a sudden release of energy. This causes friction which makes the Earth's surface shift back and forth. Earthquakes can be violent enough to destroy whole cities and injure or kill many people. About every year or so, a large earthquake occurs somewhere in the world and captures our attention. What we don't realize is that hundreds of smaller earthquakes or tremors go unnoticed by most people every day. Although we believe the ground we walk on is stable and solid, the earth is actually shifting continuously. Beneath the surface of the Earth are several levels of dense hot rock known as the mantle. The crust which ranges from 3 to 45 miles deep is divided into different pieces known as tectonic plates that are always moving past one another at boundaries known as faults.

2 The tectonic plates slide past each other in very slow motion and sometimes attach to one another. An earthquake happens when there is a pressure buildup along the fault becomes stronger than the pressure holding the rocks together. As the rocks rip apart, the released pressure radiates outwards in all directions, including toward the surface. An earthquake is usually followed by aftershocks, which are smaller tremors that happen as the crust continues to adjust after the main shock. These shocks are what help the scientist pin point the origin of the main quake. Unlike other natural disasters, an earthquake is not predictable, but scientists are working on it.

3 The scientists who study earthquakes are called as seismologists. They are Earth scientists who study the seismic waves in geological materials. Their research is aimed at determining the potential dangers of the seismic waves in the earth's tectonic plates. The main job of a seismologist is to try to locate the source, nature, and size of the seismic events. Some study the relationships of the faults and the stress caused between them, while some focus on the seismic wave data collected. Others collaborate with engineers in order to reduce the damage caused to



A Seismologist uses a seismograph to determine the magnitude of an earthquake.

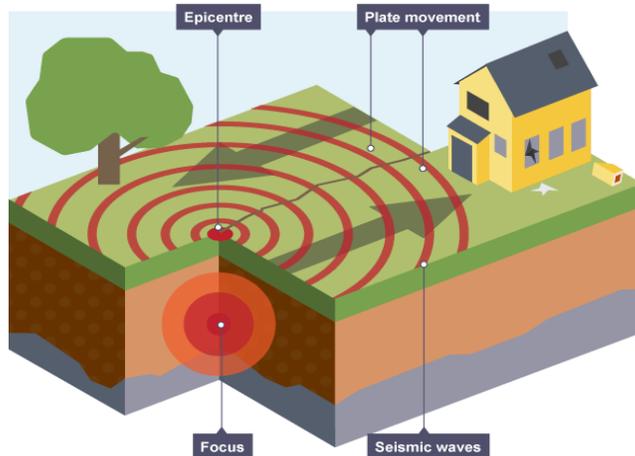


structures, this is known as earthquake engineering.

4 Seismologists use specific tools to help them determine the size or strength of an earthquake. Their most important tool is a seismograph. This tool is used to collect and record the vibrations of the Earth and record the data on paper. Other digital instruments are being implemented since they record more accurate ground vibrations and produce readings that are more precise. Many seismologists also do field surveys following a large seismic event. They may go out to the areas that are still feeling aftershocks with portable devices, trucks, planes or helicopters to get more accurate readings.

5 The seismographs give a reading about the magnitude of the earthquake. The numerical scale is known as the Richter scale. There is no limit to the possible magnitude of an earthquake however the largest earthquake recorded in history was slightly over 9 on the Richter magnitude scale. Any earthquake measured over 7 can cause considerable damage over large areas. One of the most recent devastating earthquakes happened in Haiti on January 12, 2010. This 7.0 magnitude earthquake affected the lives of over 3,500,000 people. It crumbled homes, ripped apart families, closed businesses and schools, and ruined people's lives. When all was said and done over 300,000 people were injured and over a million people were left homeless. It was estimated that over 250,000 homes and 30,000 buildings collapsed or were severely damaged.

Earthquake Facts



- Earthquakes are caused by the powerful movement of rocks within the Earth's crust.
- The abrupt release of energy beneath the Earth's crust creates seismic waves that travel through the earth.
- Scientists use the seismic waves to locate the center of the earthquakes.
- Seismographs are used to measure the magnitude of earthquakes.
- It is unlikely that a magnitude 3 earthquake will be felt, but a magnitude 6 can cause large damage.
- The earthquake recorded in Japan on March 11, 2011, had a magnitude of 9.0 and killed over 15,000 people.
- Earthquakes that occur near the ocean can trigger tsunamis.
- The most powerful earthquake ever recorded on Earth was in Valdivia, Chile in 1960, it had a magnitude of 9.5.
- Normally, it is not the shaking of the ground that hurts people, it is usually the destruction of man-made structures collapsing that claim lives.
- The National Earthquake Information Center (NEC) records about 20,000 quakes every year. However, experts estimate there are millions of earthquakes that occur yearly that are too weak to be recorded.
- California has about 10,000 earthquakes a year, but the majority go unnoticed.
- If a large earthquake is recorded, the aftershocks can be recorded for months to follow, and they can be of all magnitudes.
- An aftershock can sometimes be stronger than the earthquake. In this scenario, the aftershock is called the mainshock and the previous earthquake becomes a foreshock.