**Writing: Lesson 25**

Today the students will be learning how to write the “I” paragraph for an informative/explanatory essay. The introduction paragraph is three simple sentences and it is set up exactly the same way they were taught in section 1.

1. Remind students that the “I” paragraph should be kept short and simple. Today we will review the 3 sentences that make up the I paragraph. Write the following on the board:

   **I Paragraph**
   1. Hook
   2. 3 Reasons/Topics
   3. Closing Statement

2. (Review) – Go over this with students to remind them of what they learned in Section 1 of the curriculum.

   Let’s start with the 1st sentence. This is called your hook. This is where you want to “hook” your reader and catch their attention. If you start with a boring sentence, your reader is not going to be interested. There are many different types of hooks you can use when writing an informative/explanatory essay.

3. Write on board:
   Different Types of Hooks for Explanatory/Informative Writing–
   
   1. Question  
   2. Restate the prompt  
   3. Statement about the topic

4. Let’s take a look at the passages about Brazil that we read the other day.

   The following passages will be used in this lesson:

   **Cities to Visit in Brazil**
   **Brazilian Carnival**

   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.

5. Look at the prompt and review the different ways to write a hook. Remind them that you can ask a question in many different ways.

   - Did you know that Brazil is very interesting?
   - How much do you really know about Brazil?
   - Did you know that Brazil is an enormous country?
   - Did you know that Brazil is the world’s fifth largest country? (interesting fact from passage)
6. We could also restate the prompt in a different way
   - Brazil is a fascinating country to see and explore!
   - Brazil is an amazing place!

7. Or you could just make a simple statement about the topic you are about to write about
   - The country of Brazil is enormous.
   - Brazil is an amazing country to visit.

Take a look at our planning for the prompt:

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

***When writing the I paragraph, make sure you are color coding each sentence. For example, write the hook in red, the 3 topics in blue, and the closing sentence in green. This way they can visually see the 3 parts of the I paragraph.

8. Which hook do you want to use? (pick one as a class and write on the board or document camera).

9. Now the next sentence for I is “3 Topics.” For explanatory/informative prompts they do not have to be reasons, they can just be topics. So this is where you state your 3 topics. What are our 3 topics? (they should answer – cities, carnival, and costumes)

10. So our 2nd sentence will look something like this – Brazil is an amazing place because of the cities, the carnivals and the costumes.

11. Let’s look at our last sentence. This is called our closing statement. This is just a general statement about your topic. For this sentence you can also take words/sentences from the passages… just make sure you put it in your own words (do not copy word for word). Let me give you some examples:
   - Being able to visit Brazil would be a dream come true.
   - There is so much to learn about Brazil!
12. So as a class, let’s decide what our closing statement is going to be.
13. Now let’s put it all together and check it.
   - Do we have a hook?
   - Did we state our 3 reasons/topics?
   - Do we have a closing statement?

Here is an example of what your final I paragraph should look like:

   Did you know that Brazil is the world’s fifth largest country? Brazil is an amazing place because of the cities, the carnivals and the costumes. There is so much to learn about Brazil!

14. Let’s do one more together quickly and then you try one on your own.

15. Hand out I Paragraph worksheet titled “model/work together” in the left hand corner

16. As a class, work together to plan and come up with an I paragraph. Make sure you color code the 3 parts.

   Example:
   How much do you really know about earthquakes? Earthquakes are also known as tremors, they are studies by seismologists and there are many interesting facts about them. Earthquakes are very powerful!

17. Then have students work on the next I paragraph worksheet titled “guided practice.”

   Example:
   Tigers are very large and fierce animals. They have powerful bodies, they are one of the deadliest creatures and they have a unique diet. Unfortunately, there are less than 3,000 tigers left in the wild.

18. Assist students through planning and writing the I paragraph (as needed) for this prompt
The following passages will be used in this lesson:

Unpredictable Earthquakes
Earthquake Facts

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

Now write the I paragraph:

_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
"I" Paragraph

The following passages will be used in this lesson:

Tigers
A Tiger’s Diet

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

I ______________________

T1 ______________________ A _______
  B _______

T2 ______________________ A _______
  B _______

T3 ______________________ A _______
  B _______

C ______________________

Now write the I paragraph:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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

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 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
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
Brazilian Carnival

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.

History

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.

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 19\textsuperscript{th} century. Samba is considered the official music of Brazil. It awakens a warm and spirited mood and cultivates\textsuperscript{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 underdressed 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\textsuperscript{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.

\textsuperscript{4} cultivates – to promote or produce
\textsuperscript{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
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.
1 Powerful bodies, sharp claws and distinctive black stripes describe the largest cat species in the world. Tigers are the largest members of the cat family weighing in at over 500lbs as full grown adults. Tigers are ferocious, or fierce, felines that are quickly being put in danger of extinction. Out of the original 6 subspecies of tigers, only 4 remain and are all endangered. According to most experts, these creatures will probably not survive the next 50 years if they are not protected.

2 Today there are about 3,200 tigers left in the wild, this is a drastic change from 100 years ago when there were over 100,000 tigers roaming in the wild. Tigers are most often hunted for their fur. They are poached and their hides are used for decorative rugs or fashionable accessories.

3 Tigers are territorial animals. They prefer to live alone, but they can be social with their kind. Since they are so territorial, they require large areas of habitat to ensure they have enough prey to hunt. This requirement, paired with the fact that they are native to some of the most densely populated places on Earth has caused this animal to be hunted by humans more rapidly than expected.

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1 Poached: to take or hunt fish or game illegally.
2 densely: having the component parts closely compacted together; crowded or compact:

Fun fact: The stripes on a tiger are like a human's fingerprint, they are unique to each specific tiger. No two tiger’s stripes are the same.
4 Tigers originate from the Asian continent. However, they are not native to Africa, as most people believe. The Chinese and Bengal tigers have been relocated into Africa in the hopes of repopulating their species in the wild. Tigers were once found largely across Asia, from Turkey all the way to the eastern coast of Russia. They are also common in areas such as India, China, and Siberia. Over the past 100 years they have lost 93% of their range and have been extinguished from southwest and central Asia. Today, they are mostly found in the grasslands and tropical swamps of Siberia.

5 The stripes on the side of a tiger are a trademark of this animal, making them easy to identify. Their stripes are also used to help them camouflage out in the wild. These stripes make it easy to tell them apart from any of the other large cat species you may encounter.
A Tiger’s Diet

A tiger is considered to be one of the deadliest creatures on Earth because of their cat-like reflexes. They can reach speeds of up to 50MPH for short distances and can jump higher than any other animal. A tiger is so fast when attacking its prey that it can hone in on its prey and attack it before the prey has a chance to consider running for cover. The only way to outrun a tiger is to climb high into the jungle canopy out of its reach.

Tigers are carnivorous animals, meaning their diets are comprised of the meat, flesh, and fats off of the animals they hunt. This is where they get their nutrients needed to conduct their day to day regular activities. Tigers do not seem to be picky with what they eat, nor do they seem to have a preference. These animals will consume just about everything they can catch and kill.

Their meals often include small wild animals like wild pigs and boars to larger animals like bears, buffalo, cattle, deer, and even young elephants. When larger prey is not available, the tiger will happily eat lizards, crabs, toads, birds or fish.

A tiger’s daily consumption depends largely where they are and what is available to them.

- **Siberian Tiger**: This particular species spends half of its time hunting and eating wild boar meat. It makes up about 50% of its dietary intake. If they are unable to get their claws into some wild boar, they have been known to eat larger game such as elk, deer, and even bears. If any of these are unavailable they will eat rabbits, fish, and rodents as well.

- **White Tiger**: The White Tiger is known to be one of the best hunters of the species. Tigers are great swimmers and they will not avoid water. If a potential prey tries to escape into the water, the tiger will not hesitate to follow. This enables them to feed on monkeys, wild cattle, deer, and birds.
• **Sumatran Tiger:** This tiger is considered to be an endangered species making it difficult to know much about it. It is believed that their diets consist largely of local birds, fish, and monkeys. This species is not known to be good climbers, therefore, they are limited to prey that is found on the ground.

• **Bengal Tiger:** This species is found in savannas and they hunt livestock they can easily take down. They usually feast on deer, pigs, and birds. This is one of the species of tigers that will not feed on a daily basis, so when they do feed, they will make sure to eat well.

• **Malayan Tiger:** This species has the ability to take down just about anything it is hunting. Its’ diet is similar to all the other species. It is a very accomplished hunter and will kill just about anything that can’t kill it in the process.