

Writing: Lesson 26

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

1. Review

I Paragraph

1. Hook
2. 3 Reasons
3. Closing Statement

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.

Different Types of Hooks for Explanatory/Informative Writing–

1. Question
2. Restate the prompt
3. Statement about the topic

These are the passages that will be used in today’s lesson:

**Florida Today: The Sunshine State
Florida’s Farming**

PROMPT - *After reading the articles, think about what you learned about Florida. Now write to inform your reader about Florida.*

5. Look at the prompt and review the different ways to write a hook. Review examples as a class.

Take a look at our planning for the prompt:

I Florida

T1 Lifestyle

a. Weather

b. Beach Life

T2 Disney World

a. Parks

b. Additional Fun

T3 Farming

a. Florida Crops

b. How To

C Florida

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

6. Which hook do you want to use? (*Pick one as a class and write it on the board or document camera*)
7. The next sentence for I is “3 Reasons/Topics.” For explanatory/informative prompts, they are not reasons, they are topics. So, this is where you state your 3 topics. What are our 3 topics?

(They should answer – Lifestyle, Disney World, and Farming.)

8. Our 2nd sentence will look something like this – ***Florida is a great state to live in because of the comfortable lifestyle people have, Disney World, and the farming.***
9. 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 passage, just make sure you put it in your own words (do not copy word for word).

Let me give you an example:

-Florida has so much to offer!

12. As a class, let’s decide what our closing statement is going to be.
13. Next, let’s put it all together and check it.
 - Do we have a hook?
 - Did we state our 3 reasons?
 - Do we have a closing statement?

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

Have you ever been to Florida? Florida is a great place to live in because of the comfortable lifestyle people have, Disney World, and the farming. Florida has so much to offer!

14. Now try writing an introduction paragraph on your own.
15. Read the three passages on Insect Fossils, plan for the prompt, and write the introduction paragraph. Remember the 3 parts of the “I” paragraph.

Writing: Lesson 26
Independent Practice

Name: _____

“I” Paragraph

These are the passages that will be used in today’s lesson:

- Fossils and Insects: Amber**
- Fossils and Insects: Impressions**
- Fossils and Insects: Compressions**

Write an informational essay on insect fossils.

I _____

T1 _____ a. _____

b. _____

T2 _____ a. _____

b. _____

T3 _____ a. _____

b. _____

C _____

Now write the I paragraph:



Florida Today

The Sunshine State 820

- 1 Florida is located in the southeast of the United States. On its east coast is the Atlantic Ocean. On its west coast is the Gulf of Mexico. Florida is known for its sunny, warm weather. It also has beautiful beaches and many tourist attractions. People from near and far travel to Florida to vacation and see its amazing sights.



Florida's Weather

- 2 Florida is called “The Sunshine State” for a reason. It has about 128 days of sunshine a year. The climate in northern Florida is humid subtropical¹. In south Florida, there is a tropical climate. Between May and October is when Florida has its rainy season. This is the same season that brings bad thunderstorms and hurricanes. Florida has its dry season from October to April. During this time, the state does not see much rain. This can be scary, as rules are typically put in place to conserve² water. Because the climate is so favorable, many people like to travel to Florida.

Florida's Beautiful Beaches

- 3 Florida is known for its 663 miles of beaches on both the eastern and western coasts of the state. Many people travel there in search of white sand and warm water. There are several different popular beaches in Florida. There are family-friendly beaches like Destin Florida to lively, party beaches like South Beach in Miami. The beach is a place to relax and have fun. People like to come and enjoy the ocean and the warm weather that Florida has to offer.



Florida's Famous Tourist Attraction

- 4 Florida is known for Walt Disney World! This is a popular tourist attraction in the United States. Disney is in Orlando and is the most visited vacation resort in the world. Over 52 million people come every year! In 1971, Magic Kingdom, the first theme park opened. What followed were Epcot, then Disney's Hollywood Studios, and lastly Disney's Animal Kingdom. Since then, there have been several additions to the Disney Resort such as waterparks, shopping and restaurants, hotels, and night life.

"Florida Today The Sunshine State" written for educational purposes.

- 1.) **subtropical**- relating to or characteristic of the regions bordering the tropics
- 2.) **conserve**- to protect from harm or destruction



Florida's Farming ⁸²⁰

- 5 When people think of Florida, they only think of oranges! But, Florida is known for at least eight major U.S. crops. These crops are grapefruit, snap beans, squash, and sugar cane. They also include cucumbers, tomatoes, watermelons, and, of course, oranges! Florida provides over half the orange juice that all Americans drink each year. Florida's farming creates about 14 percent of the state's jobs. It brings in \$148.5 billion to the state's **economy**¹.
- 6 Because Florida is a leading state for these certain crops, the state's land plays an important role. The land controls the amount of water, the air quality, and **climate**² the crop gets. These are all things that can affect the crop and how much of it is sold.
- 7 The perfect place for growing in Florida is a well-drained, flat piece of land. For oranges, farmers clear away the grass. They create a hole 1-1/2 the size of the bottom of the plant. They add manure to the hole. Farmers place the plant in the hole a little higher than the soil's surface. Using the leftover soil, farmers make a "bowl" around the plant. This serves as a way of watering the plant without watering it too much.

"Florida's Farming" written for educational purposes.

1.) **economy**- the wealth or resources of a country or region

2.) **climate**- the weather conditions in an area over a long period of time



Fossils and Insects - Amber ⁸²⁰

- 1 Scientists are able to study early insects by looking at those trapped in old tree sap. This sap, or resin, is known as amber. Tree sap is very sticky. When something such as an insect touches it, it becomes trapped. The sap oozes out of the tree. It covers the insect. It hardens and keeps the body intact.
- 2 Insects covered in amber date all the way back to the dinosaur age. Scientists can also find insects in sap dating just a few hundred years old. This type of sap is called copal. These insects trapped in amber only form with trees and plants. For this reason, scientists can study the link between these insects and the forests that they live in.
- 3 In August 2012, two **mites**¹ that were covered in amber were found in Italy. They were said to be the oldest living things ever to be found in amber. These mites were 230 million years old. Other insect **fossils**² include 99-million-year-old ants. This discovery helped scientists learn 11 new types of ants. Also, in Mexico, a rare male **scorpion**³ was found in amber. This fossil was found by a farmer who was digging in the dirt. Lastly, scientists have found an amber fossil of an insect caring for its young. The fossil was over 100 million years old. This find of a female insect carrying over 60 eggs on her back was the earliest evidence that some insects care for their young just like humans do.

“Fossils and Insects - Amber” written for educational purposes.

- 1.) **mites**- an insect with four pairs of legs that is related to the tick
- 2.) **fossils**- the remains or impression of a prehistoric organism
- 3.) **scorpion**-a lobster-like insect with a poisonous sting at the end of its tail

Fossils and Insects - Impressions 780



- 4 An impression fossil is a **mold**¹ of a dead insect. Sometimes these fossils are of the whole insect or just part of it. The most lasting parts of the bug typically make these fossils. Lasting parts include the hard, outer shells. Also, the wings of the insect usually make good **imprints**² too. These molds are formed in mud or clay in the ground. For this reason, these fossils take on the color of the material in which they are formed. The bug usually dies or a part of it is left behind. After many years and layers of mud, it ends up hardening. This creates the impression.
- 5 Most often, insect impressions include only the wing of the insect. By seeing the details on the wing, scientists can detect what type of bug it is. By examining the fossil, a scientist can figure out the family in which it comes from. This happens because many insect wings are typically not eaten by birds and other **predators**³. They are too hard to digest. So, birds and predators leave them behind. Long after a wing has decayed, it settles in the mud. A copy of it stays carved in stone. This type of fossil dates back to insect life up to 299 million years ago.

“Fossils and Insects - Impressions” written for educational purposes.

1.) **mold**- the form or shape of something

2.) **imprints**- a mark made by pressing something onto a softer substance so that its outline is created

3.) **predators**- an animal that naturally preys on others



Fossils and Insects - Compressions 810

- 6 Sometimes insects get caught in mud. They are then squeezed in between sediments which compress them. This becomes a compression fossil. A compression fossil is a two-dimensional remain. These fossils are similar to impression fossils. The only difference is that organic matter from the insect is still left in this fossil. When this type of fossil is created, the mud must harden. This keeps the insect preserved. The dead insect matter retains its color. Therefore, this type of fossil shows the organism's actual color when it was alive. Depending on the material the insect is fossilized in, compression fossils may be extremely detailed.
- 7 Compression fossils tend to be formed in areas where mud and dirt are deposited. These areas are along rivers, lagoons, and ponds. The best rocks to find these fossils are in clay and shale. These fossils are made up by the hard parts of the insect. For instance, the wing covers of a beetle are durable. These types of parts make most of compression fossils. These fossils date back before dinosaurs roamed the earth.
- 8 By studying compression fossils, scientists can gather important information on the external structures of the creature. This way, they can see what the organism actually looked like a long time ago.

"Fossils and Insects - Compressions" written for educational purposes.

- 1.) **sediments**- matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid
- 2.) **two-dimensional**- having the dimensions of length and width only
- 3.) **organic**- relating to or derived from living matter
- 4.) **lagoons**- a stretch of salt water separated from the sea by a low sandbank