

Explanatory Prompt

Explanatory writing answers questions about *how*. This kind of writing helps readers understand an idea or concept such as overpopulation. The aim is to make the reader understand, **not** to tell a story or give an opinion.

In this unit, you have read a number of selections related to overpopulation, and you have learned, discussed, and written about overpopulation. Some of the selections such as *Poppy*, “Moose on the Move,” and *Memoirs of a Goldfish* give solutions to overpopulation that involve finding more space, clean water, and safety. As you have worked through this unit, you have been encouraged to think of ideas for solving an overpopulation problem.

Writing Prompt

Write to explain possible solutions for overpopulation problems. Use information from *Poppy*, “Moose on the Move,” and *Memoirs of a Goldfish* to explain how some have solved overpopulation problems. Then make your own proposal for a solution if Earth should become overpopulated and there is no longer enough energy, water, food, and space.

Think about the following as you plan, write, and revise:

- Begin with a definition of overpopulation: Overpopulation is a situation in which there are more people (or mice, moose, or fish) for the available resources such as energy, water, food, and space. State that there are solutions to overpopulation.
- Explain how the overpopulation problem is solved in *Poppy*.
- Explain how the overpopulation problem is solved in “Moose on the Move.”
- Explain how the overpopulation problem is solved in *Memoirs of a Goldfish*.
- Conclude by giving your proposed solution to overpopulation.

Use the checklist that follows to help you in plan, write, and revise your response.

1. **Have I clearly introduced my explanation?**
2. **Have I organized my information logically?**
3. **Have I used facts, details, examples, and experiences to develop my explanation?**
4. **Have I used words related to my topic of overpopulation?**
5. **Have I used linking words to connect ideas in my writing (e.g., *also, another, and, more, but, for example, and because*)?**
6. **Have I written a clear conclusion that explains my solution?**
7. **Have I checked my spelling, grammar, and handwriting to make sure my readers will be able to understand my writing?**

Use the back of this page for writing down and organizing your ideas.

Appendix 18a1

Writing an Explanation

Explanatory writing states a point—there are solutions to overpopulation—and gives evidence to support that point.

Introduction:

- Begin with a definition of overpopulation: Overpopulation is a situation in which there are more people (or mice, moose, or fish) for the available resources such as energy, water, food, and space. State that there are solutions to overpopulation and give a few brief examples.

Development: *Also use the back of the paper if you need to.*

- Explain how the overpopulation problem is solved in *Poppy*.

- Explain how the overpopulation problem is solved in “Moose on the Move.”

- Explain how the overpopulation problem is solved in *Memoirs of a Goldfish*.

Conclusion:

- Conclude by giving your proposed solution to overpopulation.

Revising/Proofreading:

- Reread your writing to see if you have explained things in order and by giving related details and examples.
- Check and correct your spelling, punctuation, and capitalization to make sure your reader will understand your explanation.

Appendix 18a2

Peer Editing Questions

- Are the explanations and information clear?
- Are the explanations and information supported by important and relevant details from each selection?
- Does the writing begin with a definition of overpopulation, continue with a middle that gives examples of solutions to overpopulation, and an end in which the writer proposes his or her solution(s) to overpopulation?
- Does the writer use precise words, domain-specific vocabulary, and linking words such as *also*, *another*, *and*, *more*, *but*, *for example*, and *because*?
- Has the writer checked his/her spelling, grammar, and handwriting to make sure readers will be able to understand the writing?
- What do I, as the listener, think is good about the writing?
- Do I have any questions and/or suggestions for the writer?

Appendix 19a