

# Explanation Genre

## Purpose (Social Function)

Explanation texts illustrate how or why something works or happens.

## Characteristics

- *Technical/factual* explanations clarify how or why a phenomena or process works.
- Technical vocabulary is used in factual explanations.
- Sequential vocabulary is used in explanations of how to enhance the sense of temporal order.
- Cause-effect statements are used in explanations of why.
- The present tense is generally used.
- The third-person perspective is used.
- Diagrams may be used to enhance meaning.
- *Personal* explanations clarify the causal relationships of ideas or beliefs, or explain a personal process.
- The first person perspective is used.

## Organization

- The introduction identifies the topic and purpose.
- Explanations of how are sequentially organized.
- Explanations of why detail causal relationships and may include accounts, episodes, or examples.






## Stages of a Process

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

# Editing and Revising















Choose your **best** draft.

- Highlight** 1st WORD of each sentence. These words should be capitalized.
- Check for any other capitals. If you have one, please say why.
- Highlight** end punctuation. You may make corrections as we go.
- Isolate each sentence and read each sentence silently.
- Ask:
  - “Does it make sense?” 
  - “Does it look right?” 
  - “Does it sound right?” 
- Underline spelling words. Correct or give correct spelling.
- We have been working on \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Highlight this target.**

# Revision Checklist



## Revising for meaning

Reread your writing. Check for the following qualities.

- |                                     |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| I stayed on topic.                  |    |    |
| I wrote for my chosen audience.     |    |    |
| I accomplished my purpose.          |    |    |
| I included all needed information.  |    |    |
| I wrote an introduction sentence.   |    |    |
| I wrote a conclusion sentence.      |   |   |
| I accomplished my target for today. |  |  |
- 

## Editing for conventions

Reread your writing. Check for the following conventions.

Target		
I underlined my spelling errors.		

### ✓ Remember!

"No"  means: Take time to improve your writing!