

Vocabulary

Use the vocabulary words and definitions below as a reference for this unit.

- audience**the readers to whom a piece of writing is directed or the listeners to whom a talk is directed
- body paragraphs**the sentences between the topic sentence and the ending sentence that develop the main idea of the paragraph
- closing sentence or clincher**the final sentence of a paragraph
- clustering**a prewriting method to generate and organize ideas
- descriptive writing**writing that paints a colorful picture by using vivid details to present a person, place, thing, or an idea
- details**the added information about a topic
- essay**a short piece of writing on a single subject that expresses a specific point of view
- expository writing**writing that explains something or informs readers
- facts**objective statements that can be proven by experience, observation, or study

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- fiction**writing based on imagination; may involve real people or events as well as invented ones
- first draft**a preliminary attempt at writing a composition
- five-paragraph essay**an essay form that uses an introductory paragraph, three body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph to organize and present information and ideas
- graphic organizer**a form of visual presentation of how content can be presented
- literature**writing in which expression and form are important features, such as poetry, fiction, biography, essays, etc.; writing that has lasting value
- main idea**the most important idea or point in a paragraph or piece of writing
- narrative writing**writing that tells a story or recounts an event
- noun**a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea
- paragraph**a group of related sentences that present and develop one main idea
- persuasive writing**writing that focuses on convincing readers of an opinion or claim, or to take a particular action

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- poetry**a type of literature written in verse and expressing strong feelings
- prompt**a general topic on which to write that is provided to a writer
- pronoun**a word that is used instead of a noun to refer to a person, place, thing, or idea
- punctuation**symbols or marks that help readers understand the meaning of a sentence
Example: Juanita asked, “John, can’t you even make toast without needing directions?”
- purpose**the specific reason a person has for writing
- reasons**logical arguments used to support an opinion or claim
- sentence**a group of words that expresses a complete thought and contains a subject and a verb
- subject**whom or what a sentence is about
- subtopic**a part of the topic and thesis broken down into parts
- summary**a brief restatement of the main points of a piece of writing

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supporting details	the words used to support the main idea or topic sentence <i>Examples:</i> Supporting details can describe a person, persuade an audience, or explain a process.
thesis statement	the main point of the essay; the claim or opinion the rest of the essay will discuss or support
topic	the subject of written material; what the material is about
topic outline	a listing in words and phrases of the major ideas and supporting ideas of a piece of writing
topic sentence	the sentence that tells the focus or main point of a paragraph
transitions	words or phrases that link ideas, sentences, and paragraphs together
useful topic	a topic that has been limited and that points to something specific about the general topic
verb	a word that expresses physical action, mental action, or a state of being; tells what the subject of the sentence is, has, does, or feels; also called a <i>simple predicate</i>