

Educator Information and Directions

Student Objectives

1. Explain the steps for choosing an expository topic
2. Evaluate the scope of different expository topics

DAY 1

- Watch the **Video Lesson** and complete your **Guided Notes**.
- Complete the **Examining the Scope** Activity.
- Complete the **Online Practice 1**.

DAY 2

- Complete the **Exploring Your Interests and Knowledge** Activity.
- Complete the **Purpose ID** Activity.
- Complete **Online Practice 2**.

DAY 3

- Complete the **Expository Writing Brainstorming Organizer**.
- Complete **Online Practice 3** and the **Online Assessment**.

Suggested Reward

Use your account to reward 100 Gold/\$coops for each worksheet completed in this packet.

Extension Activities

Background Speech: Pick an interest that you have. Set a timer and see how long you can talk about your chosen interest to a trusted adult or friend. How much background knowledge do you have on the subject?

Expository Expedition Part 2: Find as many expository texts around you as possible, and then identify the purpose of each text. You could earn Gold/\$coops for each one found and identified!

Interest Inventory: Create a list of general categories (science, history, art, sports, math, etc.). Come up with subtopics under each category, like football under sports. Then, rate your interest from one to five on each subtopic.



Complete While Watching Video



Example



Student Practice

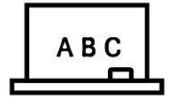


Write It Out!

Day 1

Guided Notes: Part 1

Guided Notes: While you are watching the video, fill in the information below for your notes.



Best Practices for Choosing a Topic

Start by exploring what you're _____ in.

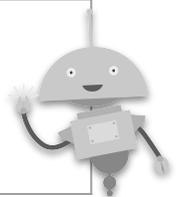
Writing is more engaging when you're invested in your topic.

Consider your _____ on your topic.



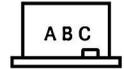
Pause the video to write down any topics that you can think of. What is something that you already know a little about?

Topic	What I Already Know About This Topic
Storms	Storms can cause power outages and damage from strong winds.



Guided Notes: Part 2

Guided Notes: While you are watching the video, fill in the information below for your notes.



Expository writing forms

- Formal research
- Account
- Comparison
- Instructions

Choosing a **purpose** will keep your writing on _____.



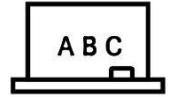
Questions To Ask When Choosing a Topic

- Do you want to research and explain something?
- Do you want to retell an event?
- Do you want to compare and contrast two things?
- Do you want to teach something by giving instructions?

- **Scope** - the _____ or range of something
- Topics may be too broad or too _____.
- If the topic of your essay is too _____, then there is too much information about it to include in your essay, or the information is too _____.
- A topic that is too _____ is far too specific.

Guided Notes: Part 3

Guided Notes: While you are watching the video, fill in the information below for your notes.



Pause the video to identify which topic is too narrow, which is too broad, and which is balanced by **circling** the correct answer. Explain your thinking on the lines below.

“Everything About Energy”

Too broad

Too narrow

Balanced

I know this is the answer because... _____

“The Use of a Circuit Breaker in Restoring Power in the Midwest”

Too broad

Too narrow

Balanced

“Lights Back On: How Power Is Restored After an Outage”

Too broad

Too narrow

Balanced

Examining the Scope Activity

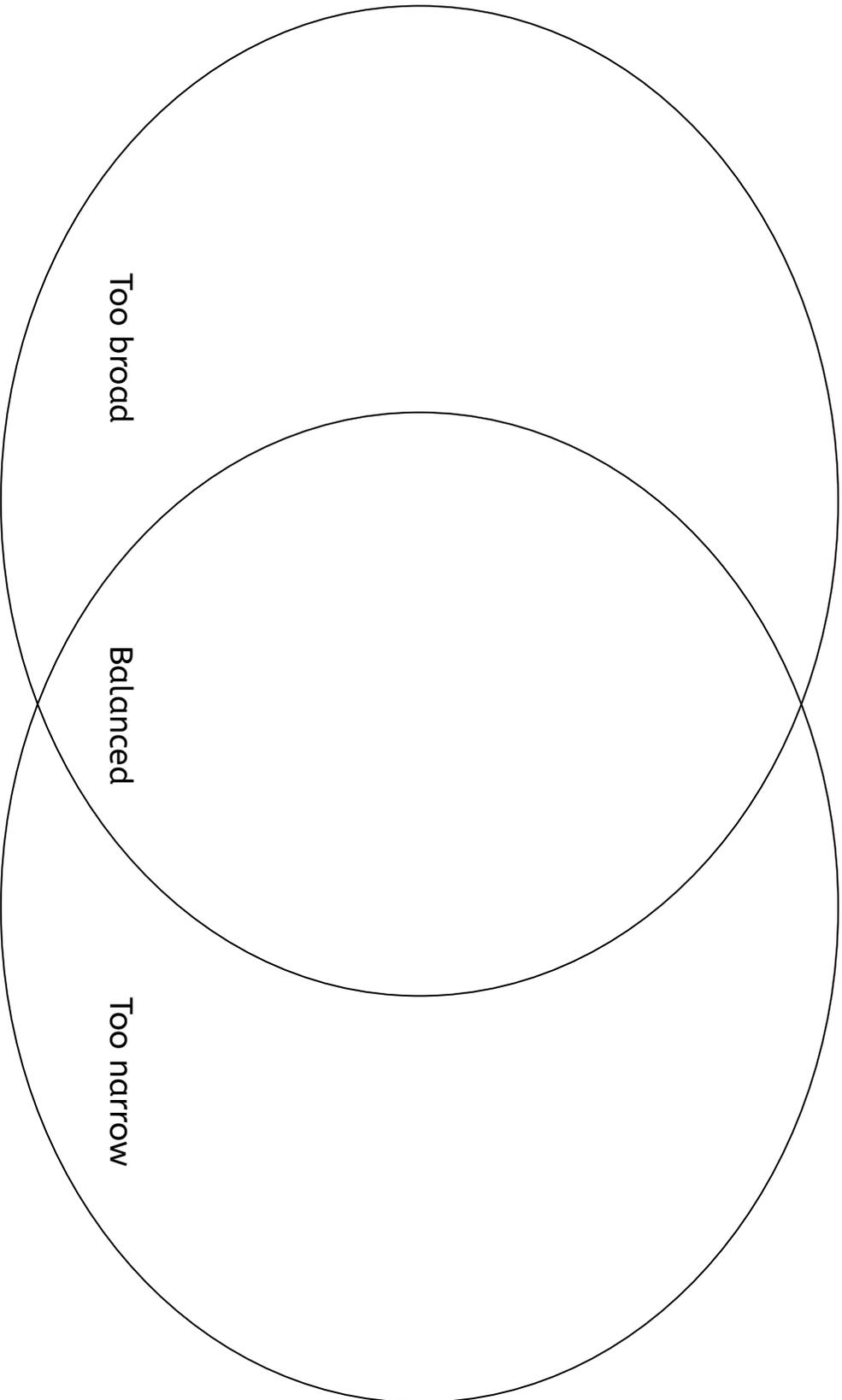
DIRECTIONS: Use the Venn diagram below to sort the expository topics into the correct categories. Identify whether the topics are too broad, too narrow, or balanced.



“The Benefits of Eating a Kiwi at 2:20 PM,” “Classroom Learning vs. Online Learning,”

“The History of Education,” “How to Take Care of a Dog,” “The Life of a Butterfly,”

“The Importance of Page Five in Charlotte’s Web,” “The Impact of Technology”



Examining the Scope Activity (continued)

DIRECTIONS: Using the previous page, select a topic that is too narrow, a topic that is too broad, and a topic that is balanced. Explain why you categorized them that way.



Topic: “The Impact of Technology”

This topic is too broad because there is too much information to cover in an essay about this topic. There are far too many kinds of technology to write about.

1. Topic:

This topic is too broad because...

2. Topic:

This topic is too narrow because...

3. Topic:

This topic is balanced because...



Day 2

Exploring Your Interests and Knowledge Activity

DIRECTIONS: Complete the survey below to identify some of your main interests. There are no wrong answers! Any of these interests could be inspiration for your expository essay!



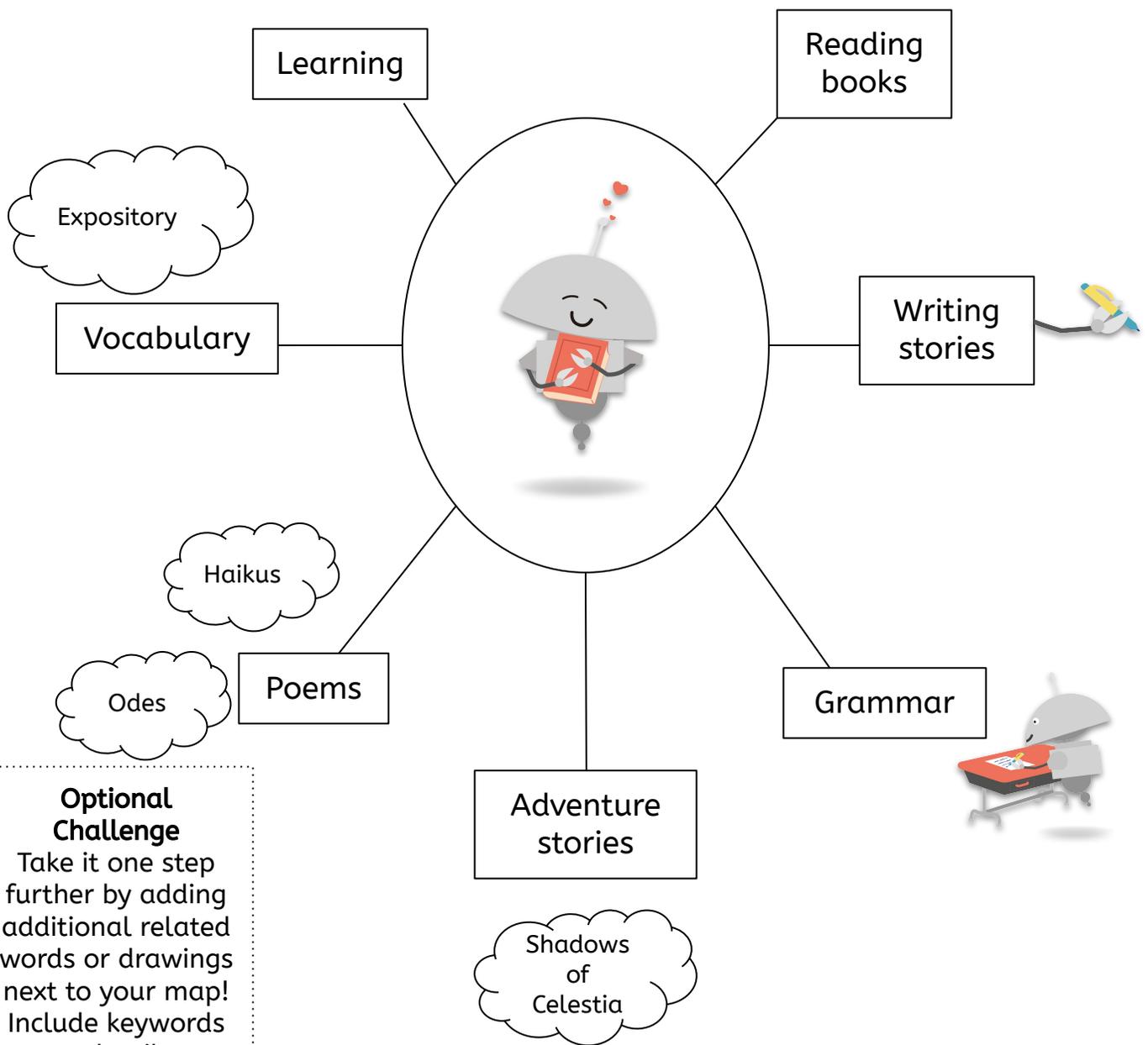
What is your favorite school subject? Why?	
Where is your favorite place to visit?	
What are your favorite activities to do with your free time?	
If you like to play or watch sports, which one is your favorite?	
What kind of music do you like to listen to?	
What are some of your favorite authors or books?	
What is your favorite animal?	
Do you have any pets? What kind of animals are they?	
What is your favorite treat or snack?	

Exploring Your Interests and Knowledge Activity (cont.)

DIRECTIONS: Of the answers you came up with on p. 7, choose one that you are most interested in writing about.



There are many ways to start brainstorming. One way is to create a word web or sketch it out. Write the name of or draw your topic in the center oval, and write key words or sketch images that relate to your topic. See the example below.



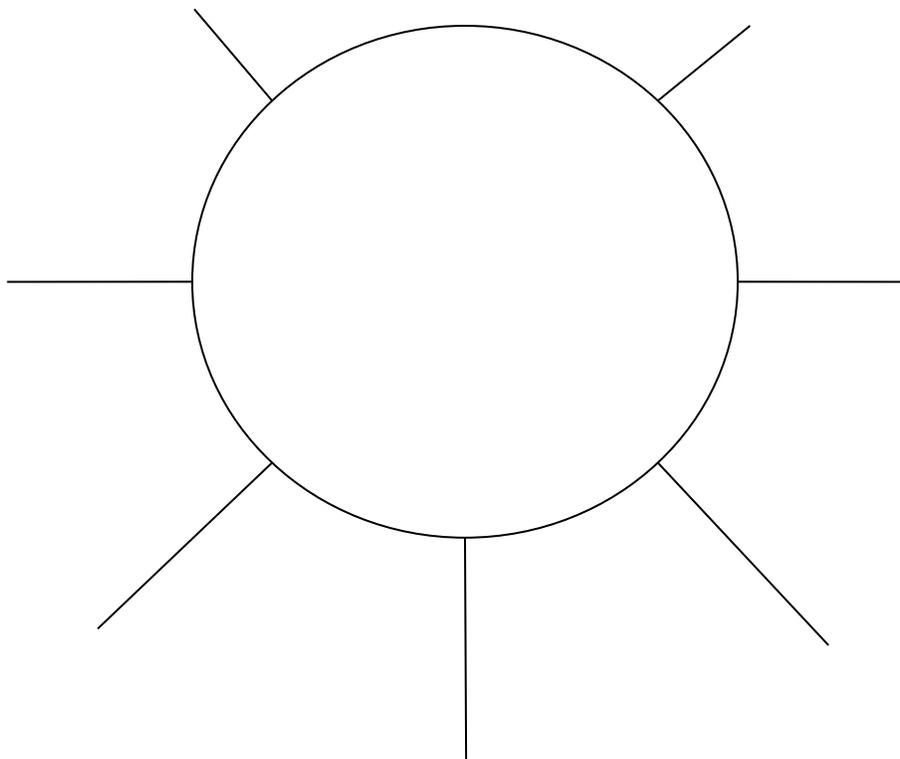
Optional Challenge

Take it one step further by adding additional related words or drawings next to your map! Include keywords or details.

Exploring Your Interests and Knowledge Activity (cont.)

DIRECTIONS: Of the answers you came up with on p. 7, choose one that you are most interested in writing about.

Create your word web or sketch it out. Write the name of or draw your topic in the center oval, and write key words or sketch images that relate to your topic. See the example on p. 8. Create with the template below or use any device of your choice.



Optional Challenge

Take it one step further by adding additional related words or drawings next to your map! Include keywords or details.

Purpose ID Activity

DIRECTIONS: Take a look at the example titles below. Identify the purpose of each topic based on the title, and explain your thinking.
Hint: These titles are great examples for your own essay!



Expository Purposes

- To research and explain something
- To retell an event
- To compare and contrast two things
- To teach something by giving instructions



Title: “How To Remain Healthy and Fit”

I think the purpose of this essay is to teach someone how to be healthy with instructions because the title says “How To.”

1. “The Water Cycle”

2. “How To Make Pancakes”

3. “Technology in 2000 Compared To Technology Today”

4. “The History of Football”

5. “The Signing of the Declaration of Independence”

Day 3

Brainstorming Your Own Topic Activity

DIRECTIONS: Take a look at the example topics below. Can you think of others?



Formal Research

- Explain a lunar eclipse.
- Explain the lifecycle of a frog.
- Explain the plot of the last book you read.



Account

- Explain the invention of the printing press (or another invention).
- Write a local news story about an important event or issue affecting residents.
- Write about a historical event. For example, recount the events that led up to the fall of the ancient Egyptian civilization, or describe popular fashion of the late 1700s.

Comparison

- Write a comparison essay about dogs and cats.
- Write a comparison essay about basketball and football.
- Write a comparison essay about different music artists or genres.

Instructions

- Explain how to play your favorite game.
- Explain how to write a friendly letter.
- Explain how to make your favorite snack.

Write any additional topics you can think of below.

Expository Writing Brainstorm Organizer



DIRECTIONS: Use the boxes below to list out ideas for your essay topic.

Topics

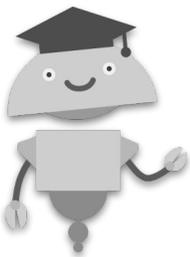
Idea 1

Idea 2

Idea 3

Write any background knowledge you have about each topic below.

Reflect: Which topic are you most interested in writing about?



Brainstorming Your Own Topic Activity (cont.)

DIRECTIONS: Select one of your topics from the previous page and take it through the reflection below. Make sure that you answer each question fully.



The topic I want to write about is...

I want to write about this topic because...

Select the purpose for your essay:

- To research and explain
- To retell an event
- To compare and contrast
- To teach something by giving instructions

Is your topic too broad?

Ask yourself the following:

- Can I cover this topic fully in my essay?
- Can I support my details and points with specific evidence?
- Is my topic focused on one particular subject?
- Does my topic require a lot of background knowledge?

Is your topic too narrow?

Ask yourself the following:

- Can I find enough information about my topic?
- Is my topic a time- or location-specific one?
- Is my topic overly detailed?
- Can I write a full essay about this topic?



Write whether you think your topic is too narrow, too broad, or balanced below. Explain your thinking.

My topic is... _____.

I know this because... _____.
