

# Expert Guide

## *Explaining a Concept to a New Learner*

Subject \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Assignment Summary**

During this unit, you have learned a lot of new information and are becoming an expert on important topics in this subject area. Your job in this assignment is to write a one-page “Expert Guide” to explain a selected concept or topic to a student who doesn’t know everything that you now do. This is your opportunity to prove that you really know your stuff and help other learners at the same time.

<b>Writer’s Purpose</b>	You are writing a clear and accurate explanation.
<b>Writer’s Role</b>	You are writing as a student who is an expert on [topic]. You understand things about this topic that other kids might find confusing or difficult, and you know how to connect with them.
<b>Audience</b>	You are writing for students your age who do not know a lot about this topic.
<b>Form</b>	You will write a one-page explanation using one or more paragraphs.
<b>Focus Correction Areas (FCAs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic sentence that gets reader’s attention and identifies concept/topic</li> <li>• Clear, accurate explanation including 3–5 details and 3 or more content vocabulary</li> <li>• A tip or warning that will help students understand an aspect that might be confusing</li> </ul>
<b>Procedure</b>	<p>To help you develop your Expert Guide, we will do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type Two Writing: In one minute, list at least 6 vocabulary words related to the topic I have selected. After you have finished, draw a line below what you have written. Share your words with a partner or small group. Put a checkmark next to words that you have in common. Add at least 3 new words below the line. We will share our words as a whole class and decide which are the most important ones to include in our writing.</li> </ul>

- Using a different but related topic, I will show you examples of clear explanations as well as a few explanations that are missing important information or key vocabulary. We will look for tips or warnings that have been included, or we will add them.
- We will brainstorm topic sentences that grab the reader's attention, such as starting with a quote (great for writing about a historical figure), starting with a definition (good for science and math topics), or starting with an unusual fact/detail or thought-provoking question (good for almost any topic).
- Draft your Expert Guide.
- Read your writing out loud in a one-foot voice, and make any changes you think will improve it.
- Show me that you have followed each of the FCAs. Underline your topic sentence and put a box around the topic. In the margin, label the attention-grabbing strategy you used (quote, definition, etc.). Number your facts/details. Circle your content vocabulary and check the spelling of each word using our brainstormed list. Put parentheses around your tip or warning.
- After I have scored your writing, you will read my feedback, write a quick reflection, and store your Expert Guide in your [writing portfolio](#) for possible future revision.

Optional Extension: Team up with a class one year younger and give students an opportunity to hold an Expert Fair. Pair students with a younger student to share their Expert Guides and teach what they have learned.