

# Expert Guide

## *Explaining a Concept to a New Learner*

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

### **Assignment Summary**

During this unit, you have learned a great deal of new information and are increasing your expertise on important topics in this subject area. This knowledge will help you in the future as you build on your learning and deepen your understanding of key concepts in each of your courses. Writing about your learning is a proven technique to improve your own understanding about a topic. 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. You should demonstrate your knowledge with a clear, detailed explanation that uses both technical vocabulary and vocabulary that non-experts can understand.

<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 students might find troubling or confusing, and you know how to make this topic relatable to 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 two or more paragraphs.
<b>Focus Correction Areas (FCAs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductory paragraph that gets reader’s attention, identifies the topic, and makes a connection with your audience</li> <li>• Clear, accurate explanation including 5 to 7 details and 5 or more content vocabulary</li> <li>• A tip or warning that will help students regarding an aspect they might find 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 10 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</li> </ul>

class and decide which are the most important to include in our writing.

- 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). We will also explore how we can make connections with our audience to pique their interest and connect your topic to what they already know.
- 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 attention-grabber 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. Put parentheses around your tip or warning.
- If time allows, we will edit with a peer. You will take turns reading your Expert Guide to a partner. Your partner will provide feedback, including one question or clarification about the topic that will prompt you to make your writing clearer, more accurate, or easier to understand. You will make improvements as needed.
- 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.