

Table of Contents

TO THE TEACHER	5
REVIEW OF BASIC COMPOSITION SKILLS	6
SKILL-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	7–23
Let’s Explain	7
Getting off to a Good Start	8
The Importance of Sequence	9
Developing the Main Idea: Defining and Explaining	10
Developing the Main Idea: Using Cause and Effect	11
Developing the Main Idea: Using Comparison	12
Developing the Main Idea: Using Examples	13
Writing How-to Directions	14
Writing Directions to a Place.....	15
Writing a News Article Using the Five W’s and an H	16
Writing an Invitation	17
Writing Announcements and Notices	18
Writing Memos	19
Expository Writing in the Subject Areas	20
Outline for Expository Writing	21
Writer’s Checklist	22
Editorial Symbols	23
EXPOSITORY-WRITING LESSONS	24–63
Lesson 1: All-Star Camp	24–25
Lesson 2: A Craft-and-Flower Show	26–27
Lesson 3: How to Play Checkers	28–29
Lesson 4: Man’s Best Friend	30–31
Lesson 5: My Favorite Family Activity	32–33
Lesson 6: School Game Night	34–35
Lesson 7: Morning Announcements	36–37
Lesson 8: A Literary Wax Museum	38–39
Lesson 9: Trees Are Helpful	40–41
Lesson 10: Getting to the Reunion	42–43
Lesson 11: The Useful Atlas.....	44–45
Lesson 12: California Gray Whales	46–47
Lesson 13: Cereal Boxes	48–49
Lesson 14: Mythical Explanations	50–51
Lesson 15: Personal-Appearance Announcement	52–53
Lesson 16: The Weather Report	54–55
Lesson 17: Earthquakes	56–57
Lesson 18: How a Volcano Works	58–59
Lesson 19: Comparing Baseball and Basketball	60–61
Lesson 20: Before- and After-School Programs.....	62–63
ADDITIONAL TOPIC IDEAS	64

How to Play Checkers

TOPIC

You have been asked to entertain your younger cousin, who wants to learn how to play checkers. You like this cousin and are happy to teach her. Once she learns how to play, it will be fun for you, too. Put your directions on a poster so that your cousin can refer to them from time to time.

THINK ABOUT IT

Put yourself in your cousin's place. Be encouraging! Start by explaining the object of the game. Continue with directions on how to set up the board. You will have to explain the rules of the game. Don't forget to include helpful strategies that you have learned. Help your cousin to become competitive with you so that you will enjoy playing against her. Some people learn by reading about something. Others learn by doing.

GET ORGANIZED

Plan your directions. Begin by explaining your purpose and the object of the game. Explain the rules of the game and helpful strategies by using words, phrases, and/or short sentences. You can develop your writing into more complete, fluent sentences in the Compose section.

Purpose Statement: _____

Definition and Object of the Game: _____

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

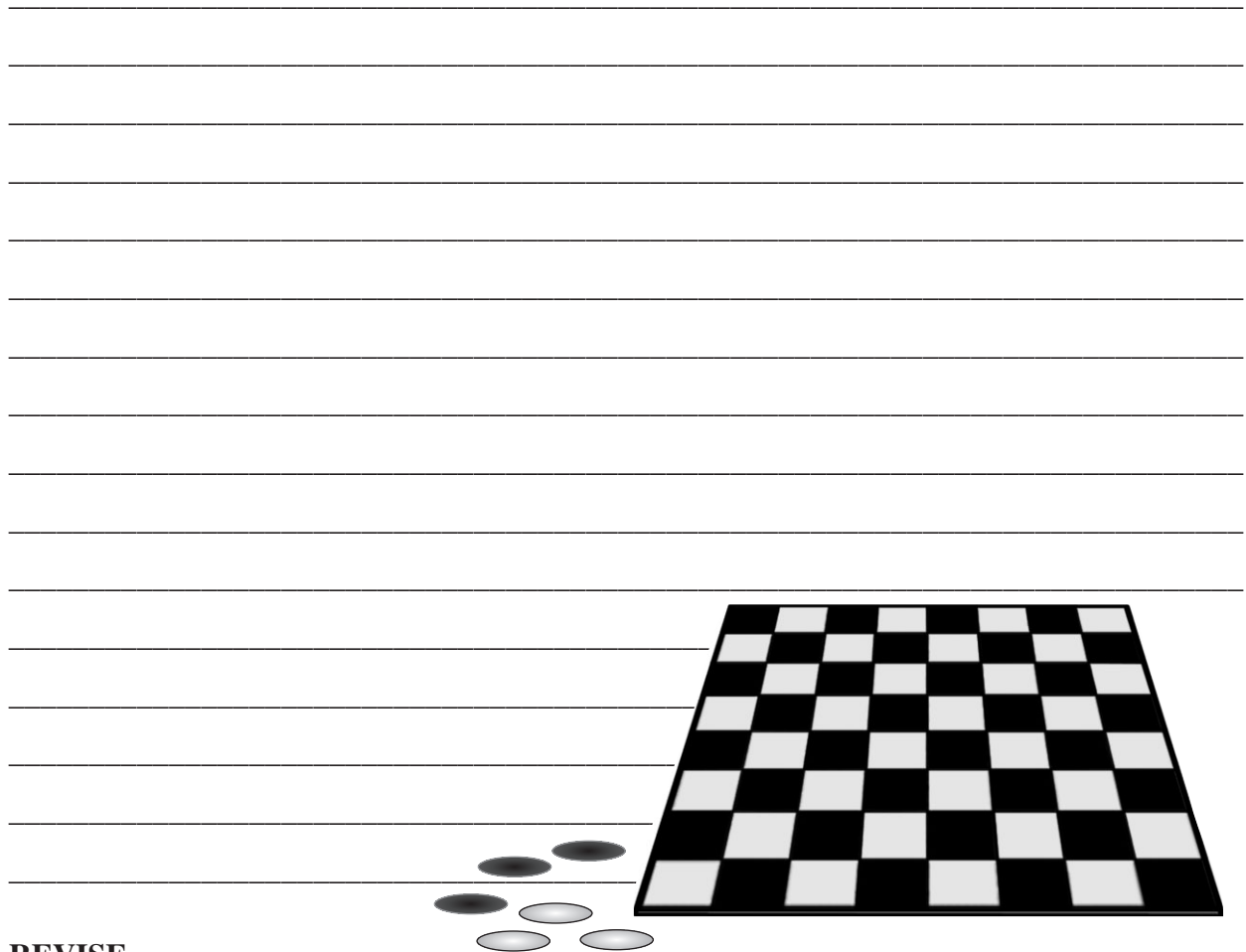
6.

Give the rules and strategy hints.

How to Play Checkers

COMPOSE

Begin by stating the purpose of your expository writing. You will use definition and explanation to develop your writing. Keep your sentences short and be sure to keep your directions in the proper sequence. Use words like *first*, *next*, *last*, and *finally* to help you. Do not include any unnecessary information. Assume your reader knows nothing about checkers! Refer to your writing ideas from the pre-writing section to get started. Check your directions by reviewing them from the reader's point of view. If possible, provide a drawing or a diagram to help clarify your written directions.



REVISE

Edit your writing by using the Writer's Checklist and the Editorial Symbols sheets. Then exchange papers with your pre-assigned writing partner. Each of you will use the same sheets to offer suggestions for improvement to the other. Now you are ready to rewrite your work in good form on another paper. Put your directions on a sheet of oaktag or construction paper. You may want to include a drawing or diagram. Share the poster with the whole class.

FOR MORE FUN

Make a word-search puzzle using words containing "check" or vocabulary about checkers and the rules of the game.

A Literary Wax Museum

TOPIC

After reading many popular novels, your class has created a wax museum exhibit to share the main characters of these stories with others. Everyone is excited about the reading they have done and the idea of sharing what they've learned. Write an invitation to be sent to those you'd like to attend.

THINK ABOUT IT

Will the style of your invitation be formal or informal? Will it be in the form of a card, a letter, or another type of written communication? How will you decorate it? Will your decoration relate to the theme of the exhibit? Who was involved in preparing the exhibit? Where will it take place? When will it take place? Who should attend? Why should they attend? Who are a few of the featured characters? Who is in charge? Will refreshments be served? Is a response to the invitation required?

GET ORGANIZED

Plan your invitation. Explain the reason for the invitation in the form of a purpose statement. Fill in the who, what, where, when, why, and how information to help you develop your ideas. Use words, phrases, and/or short sentences. You can develop your writing into more complete, fluent sentences in the Compose section.

Purpose Statement: _____

