

# Lesson 1

W.2.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

## Writing to Inform: Paragraph

### Step 1 Learn About Informational Writing

#### What Is Information?

Information tells facts and details about a topic.

Here is some information about rabbits!

Rabbits are covered in fur. They eat grass and hay.



#### What Is Informational Writing?

Writers use facts to tell about real people, places, or things. Writers explain what something is, how something happened, or how something works.

#### Informational Writing has:

- a **beginning** that introduces the topic
- a **middle** that tells facts and details about the topic
- an **end** that sums up the information

Jayden wrote an informational paragraph telling what the Oglala Lakota people wear to a celebration. Let's read it.



## MENTOR TEXT

## Special Clothes for a Special Day

*by Jayden Cook*

Do you have special clothes for special days? Every August, the Oglala Lakota people in South Dakota have a celebration. They dress like their ancestors. Ancestors are the people who lived before them. Their ancestors wore dresses, pants, and moccasins made from animal skins. Moccasins are shoes. The Oglala also wore clothes with beautiful beads. Some of the beads showed animals. Some showed plants. The Oglala respect nature and their ancestors. They show this respect by wearing special clothing.

- 1** Did Jayden write a **beginning**? **Underline** his topic in green.
- 2** Did he write a **middle**? **Underline** facts and details about the topic in yellow.
- 3** Did he write the **end**? **Underline** sentences that sum up the information in red.




## Step 2 Unpack Your Assignment

FOCUS Identify Assignment Details




### Modeled Instruction

Let's see how Jayden unpacks his assignment.

### Jayden's Assignment

-  What special clothing do the Oglala Lakota wear for celebrations?
-  Read an article about a special celebration called a powwow.
-  Write a paragraph for your teacher. Give information about the clothing the Oglala Lakota wear for special celebrations.
  - In the **beginning** tell the topic.
  - Give facts and details about the topic in the **middle**.
  - Sum up the information at the **end**.




### Think Aloud

-  To answer this question, I need to know about the clothing the Oglala Lakota wear for a special celebration.
-  I will look for details about clothing as I read the article.
-  I am writing a paragraph, and my teacher will read it. I need to include my topic, facts and details, and an ending that sums up the information.

Let's read and mark your assignment.

## Write Time

### Your Assignment

-  How did the Powhatan people use natural resources?
-  Read "My Dad Lives History" and "Nature's Resources."
-  Write a paragraph for your classmates. Tell about two resources the Powhatan people used.
  - In the **beginning** tell the topic.
  - Give facts and details about the topic in the **middle**.
  - Sum up the information at the **end**.



- 1 Underline** the question you will answer.
- 2 Draw a box** around what you will write.
- 3 Circle** who will read what you write.

### Turn and Talk

What three parts will your paragraph have?

## Step 3 Read and Gather Evidence

### Source Text 1

# My Dad Lives History

by Ed Bright



1 My name is Ed. I am Powhatan. My dad has taught me a lot about our tribe. He works at a living history museum. He teaches visitors about Native Americans. Dad teaches visitors how Powhatan used resources. They used plants, water, and animals.

2 Where did the Powhatan find the resources they needed? They depended on their environment. Land and water were all around them. My dad helps visitors understand. He shows how the Powhatan used the land. They grew corn, beans, and squash. Powhatan used water from rivers to help grow the crops. They caught fish from the rivers.



My dad works with other actors to help people learn about the past.



Blueberries



Antlers

- 3 The Powhatan used the forest, too. They used trees to build homes. They rode in canoes made of trees. Oak trees also gave them acorns to eat. My dad shows visitors how to make flour out of acorns. The Powhatan used berries from the forest to make dye. Sometimes my dad shows how berries can color clothing and beads. The forests also had lots of deer. My dad explains that Powhatan ate deer meat. They used the skin to make clothing and shoes. They used the deer's antlers to make tools.
- 4 I am very proud of my dad. I am very proud to be Powhatan, too.

# NATURE'S RESOURCES

The Powhatan people made good use of the plants and animals in their environment.



**Shelter**

## Trees



**Fuel**



**Canoes**



**Plates**



**Corn**



**Food**



**Dolls**



**Baskets**



**Deer**



**Tools**



**Clothing**



**Food**



## Think It Through

**1 Fill in** each chart. Use details from “My Dad Lives History” and “Nature’s Resources.”

### Resource 1

Type

How did the Powhatan people use it?

**HINT** Think of how the Powhatan people used plants.

### Resource 2

Type

How did the Powhatan people use it?

**HINT** Think of how the Powhatan people used animals.

## Resource 3

Type

How did the Powhatan people use it?

**HINT** Reread "My Dad Lives History."

## Resource 4

Type

How did the Powhatan people use it?

**HINT** Review the pictures in "Nature's Resources."

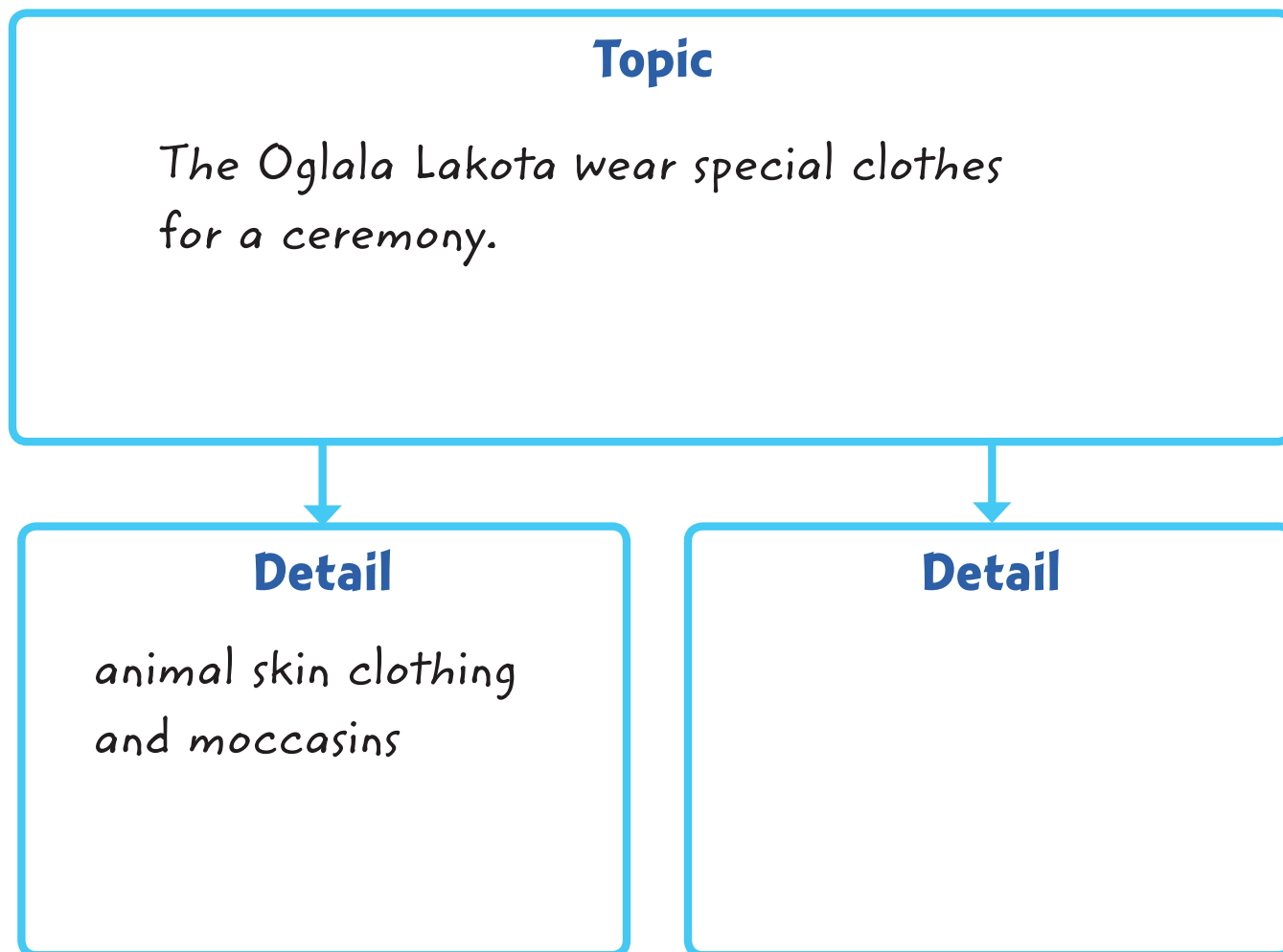
**2** Put a checkmark beside the two resources you will write your paragraph about.

## Step 4 Plan

**FOCUS** Organize Your Details

### Modeled Instruction

Jayden gathered information from his sources. Then he planned the details to include in his paragraph.



**1** **Fill in** the other detail that Jayden included in his paragraph.

## Guided Practice

Use the organizer below to plan your writing.

- 2 Write** your topic in the first box.
- 3 Write** one detail in each box below your topic.

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graph TD; Topic[Topic] --> Detail1[Detail]; Topic --> Detail2[Detail];
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## Independent Practice



**Write Time** Write a sentence about each of the resources you will include in your paragraph.



## Step 5 Draft

This chart shows the parts of an informational paragraph. Use the ideas here as you draft your **beginning**, **middle**, and **end**.

### Parts of an Informational Paragraph

#### BEGINNING

Introduces  
the topic

A strong **beginning** should:

- Tell the **topic** of the paragraph.
- **Interest** readers.

#### MIDDLE

Tells information  
about the topic

**Middle** sentences should:

- Give **facts** that explain the topic.
- Add **details** that give more information.

#### END

Sums up the  
information

The **end** of your paragraph should:

- **Connect** the facts with the topic in different words.
- **Finish** your thoughts about the topic.



## Write the BEGINNING

Study the beginning of Jayden’s paragraph. Then try writing the beginning of your paragraph.



### MENTOR TEXT

Do you have special clothes for special days? Every August, the Oglala Lakota people in South Dakota have a celebration. They dress like their ancestors. Ancestors are the people who lived before them.

**1 Draw a box** around the topic of Jayden’s paragraph.



### MY PARAGRAPH

**2 Write** two ways to introduce your topic.

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Independent Practice



**Write Time** Draft the beginning of your paragraph. Use the tips from the chart on page 22.



**HINT** Make your readers want to learn more about your topic.

## Turn and Talk

Which of your partner’s beginnings is better? Why?

## Write the MIDDLE

Read one fact that Jayden added to the middle of his paragraph. Then try writing one of your facts.



### MENTOR TEXT

The Oglala also wore clothes with beautiful beads. Some of the beads showed animals. Some showed plants.

- 1 Underline** Jayden’s fact about Oglala clothing.
- 2 Draw a box** around the details that tell more about the fact.



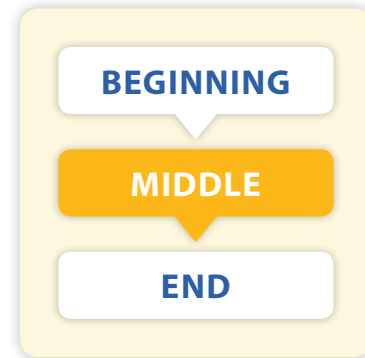
### MY PARAGRAPH

- 3 Write** a sentence telling one of your facts. Add details to tell more about that fact.

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**HINT** Review your chart on page 21.

## Write the END

Study the end of Jayden's paragraph. Then try writing the end of your paragraph.



### MENTOR TEXT

The Oglala respect nature and their ancestors.  
They show this respect by wearing special clothing.

**1 Underline** the words that sum up Jayden's information.



### MY PARAGRAPH

**2 Write** two different endings for your paragraph.

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**HINT** Connect your facts with the topic in different words.

## Independent Practice



**Write Time** Finish drafting the middle and end of your paragraph.

## Turn and Talk

How does your ending sum up your paragraph?



## Step 6 Revise

FOCUS Organization and Focus

### Modeled Instruction

Let's read part of Jayden's draft and part of his checklist.



#### MENTOR TEXT *Draft*

In August, the Oglala Lakota in South Dakota dress as their ancestors did for a special celebration. The Oglala hold many celebrations each year. Their ancestors wore dresses and pants made from animal skins. The moccasins on their feet came from animal skins too. They also wore clothing with beautiful beads. Some beads showed animals. Some showed plants.

#### Informational Writing Checklist

- ✓ Did I introduce the topic of my paragraph?
- ✓ Do my facts and details come from my sources?
- ✓ Do my facts and details tell more about my topic?

- 1 **Underline** Jayden's topic in green.
- 2 **Underline** his facts and details in yellow.
- 3 What detail does not tell about Jayden's topic?

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## Guided Practice

I wrote about how the Powhatan people used corn. Can you help me make my paragraph better?

The Powhatan people used resources in nature for everything they needed. Corn was very important. People still eat corn at picnics today.  
The Powhatan ate the corn. They also made dolls and baskets from the husks.



- 1 Underline** Hershel's topic in green.
- 2 Underline** his facts and details in yellow.
- 3** What detail does not tell about how the Powhatan people used corn as a resource?  

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**HINT** Everything in Hershel's paragraph should be about the topic.

## Independent Practice



**Write Time** Use the Informational Writing Checklist to help you revise your writing.

### Turn and Talk

Why is it important for every detail to tell more about the topic?

 **Modeled Instruction**

A **fact** is information that is true. An **opinion** is the way a person thinks or feels about something.

When you write an informational paragraph,

- check your facts in a trusted source to make sure they are true.
- do not include sentences that show your opinion.

Let's see how Jayden revised his paragraph for facts and opinions.

 **MENTOR TEXT** Draft

In the spring, the Oglala Lakota people in South Dakota dress as their ancestors did for a special celebration. I think it would be a lot of fun to go. Their ancestors wore dresses, pants, and moccasins made from animal skins.

 **Think Aloud**

- I'll check my source to make sure the celebration happens in spring. Oh, it happens in August. I will revise this sentence.
- This sentence is not a fact. The words "I think" mean that it is my opinion. I'll take it out.

## Guided Practice

Read each sentence pair. **Underline** the sentence that belongs in an informational paragraph.

- 1** It would be great to make clothes like the Oglala did.  
The Oglala wore clothes with beautiful beads.

**HINT** An opinion is the way a person feels about something.

- 2** Deer skins were made into pants and moccasins.  
Deer skins probably made really comfortable clothing.

**HINT** A fact is something you can check in a source.

- 3** The Powhatan people show respect for nature by not being wasteful.  
I can't believe how many resources the Powhatan people used!

## Independent Practice



**Write Time** Check the facts in your paragraph.  
Take out any opinion words or sentences.

## Turn and Talk

Why should you leave your opinions out of informational writing?

## Step 7 Edit

**W.2.5:** With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by . . . editing.

**L.2.2a:** Capitalize holidays, product names, and geographic names.

**FOCUS** Capitalization

### Modeled Instruction

When you **capitalize** a word, you write the first letter in uppercase. The other letters are lowercase.

Remember to capitalize:

- countries, mountains, states, and parks
- holidays, months, and days
- people or groups of people
- words that begin a sentence

Read part of Jayden’s draft below.

**Language Handbook** To learn more about capitalization, turn to page 208.

### MENTOR TEXT Draft

Every August, the Oglala Lakota people in south dakota have a celebration. They dress like their ancestors.

- 1** **Circle** the capitalized word that names a month.
- 2** **Underline** the phrase that names a group of people.
- 3** **Capitalize** the words that name a state.

## Guided Practice

**Rewrite** each sentence. Capitalize words correctly.

**4** the powhatan people lived in virginia.

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**HINT** Reread the list on page 30.

**5** how do you use resources?

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**6** people in south dakota celebrate native americans' day.

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**HINT** Which words or phrases are proper nouns?

**7** how did ed learn about the powhatan people?

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## Independent Practice



**Write Time** Check that you capitalized words in your paragraph correctly. Check your spelling and punctuation, also.

**Turn and Talk** 

When should you capitalize a word?

## Step 8 Publish and Share

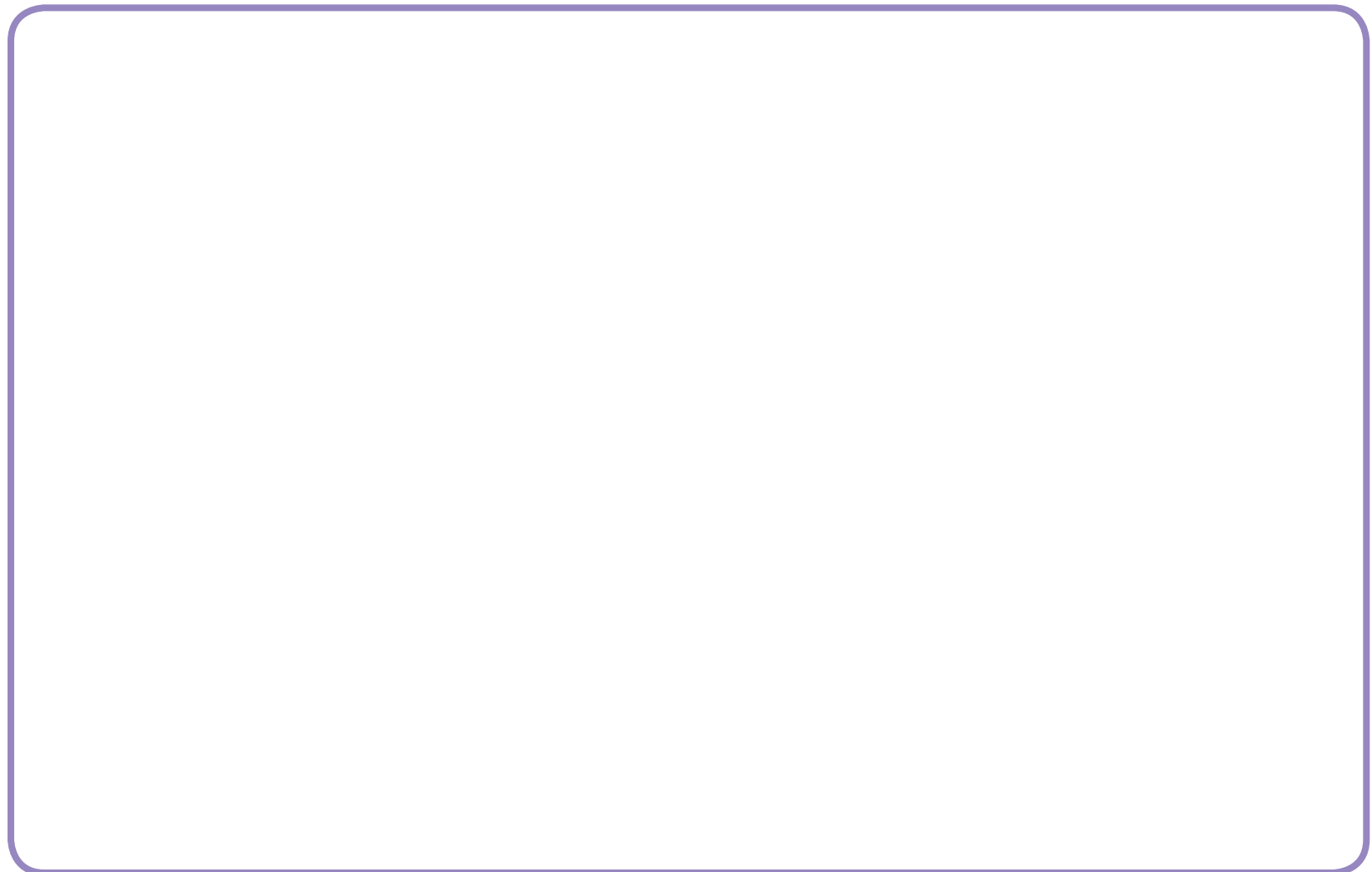
FOCUS Illustrate Facts

### Prepare

Now it's time to share! You can show what you have learned by illustrating facts from your writing.

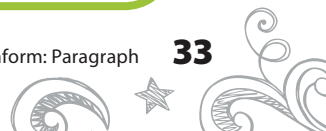
**Read** the fact below. Then **draw** a picture to illustrate the fact.

**FACT** *The Powhatan people used trees to build canoes.*



**Write** an interesting fact from your paragraph. Then **draw** a picture to illustrate the fact.

**FACT**





 **Independent Practice**



**Write Your Informational Paragraph**

**How did the Powhatan people use natural resources?**

A large writing area with a spiral binding at the top and horizontal lines for text.

A sheet of white paper with a spiral binding at the top. The paper is ruled with 10 sets of horizontal lines. Each set consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for handwriting. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.

A sheet of white lined paper with a spiral binding at the top. The paper has 20 horizontal lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. The spiral binding is located at the top edge of the paper.

A sheet of white lined paper with a spiral binding at the top. The paper has 20 horizontal lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. The spiral binding is on the left side, with 20 metal rings. The paper is set against a dark blue background.