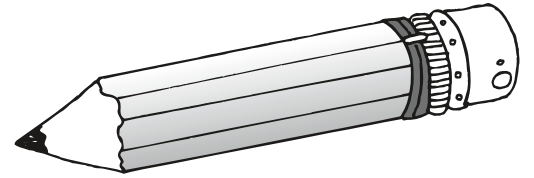


Narrative Four Square Plan #1

Prompt or Topic: Tell about a time you visited a relative.



Our arrival

- long 7-hour drive
- beamed at porch
- smelled the pies cooling
- heard the sizzle of chicken frying

Dinner

- gathered, chattered and ate
- grew silent/good food
- startled by noise on the porch
- peeked outside
- bear lunging for pie

Going to Grandma's house is not the most thrilling thing in the world to do. We weren't expecting much excitement, but boy, were we wrong this time!

Grandma's idea

- ordered us back into kitchen
- snatched pots, pans and large spoons
- banged pots and stomped our feet
- bear fled with our pie

We ended up without grandma's world famous peach pie for dessert, but we sure did have something to talk about after dinner! Who knew going to grandma's house would be such an adventure?

Narrative Essay #1

Prompt or Topic: Tell about a time you visited a relative.

Going to Grandma's house is not the most thrilling thing in the world to do. We weren't expecting much excitement, but boy, were we wrong this time!

After a long seven-hour drive, we finally arrived at grandma's house. She lives smack in the middle of the state with all manner of woods and mountains surrounding her for miles. Even though she is old, she still has lots of energy, and when she hugged me as I got out of the car, I really felt it. Beaming at my favorite wraparound porch, I smelled the freshly baked peach pies that were cooling on her porch. The sizzle of frying chicken was barely heard over all our chatter. Oh good, I remember thinking, dinner will be soon!

A short time later, dinner was on the table. Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, gravy, biscuits, corn on the cob and a fresh green salad were all on the menu. There was a general chattering as we started to eat. You could have heard a butterfly sneeze we were so hungry, and the food was so delicious! Our silence though was soon interrupted by loud ruckus coming from the porch. It was so loud we all got up at the same time and looked out the window. Our mouths fell open as we saw a bear making his way towards grandma's peach pies.

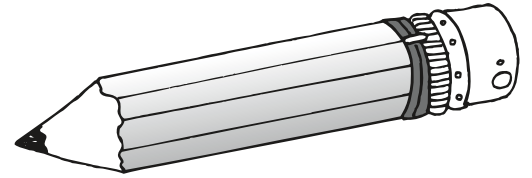
Right away, Grandma ordered us back into the kitchen and told us to grab pots, pans and large spoons. Then we stood close to the front door and proceeded to make the most startling commotion possible. We banged, clanged, hooted and stomped our feet so loud I'm sure the astronauts on the space station heard us! The bear, however, was not impressed. He didn't drop the pies like we were all secretly wishing. He just grabbed them in his mouth and shuffled away with them. No dessert for us that evening!

We ended up without grandma's world-famous peach pie for dessert, but we sure did have something to talk about after dinner! Who knew going to grandma's house would be such an adventure?



Narrative Four Square Plan #2

Prompt or Topic: Write about a time you got ready for school.



Crazy morning

- cereal boxes scattered
- brother's science project so gross
- my biography report
- all crowded

Hungry for breakfast

- Captain Crunch and race to the box
- brother grabbed box
- tug of war
- disaster! roaches on the loose

Annoying brother! Mutant insects! Someone once said, "There's no place like home." Well, they were never at my house early in the morning, especially one particular morning as I was getting myself ready for school.

Roachapalooza!

- scampered on report
- plan to lure them
- lined up the Captain Crunch
- they got back in their jars

My brother and I never fought over Captain Crunch again. It's hard to be a fan of a cereal once you've seen a giant roach munch down on it.

Narrative Essay #2

Prompt or Topic: Write about a time you got ready for school.

Annoying brother! Mutant insects! Someone once said, "There's no place like home." Well, they were never at my house early in the morning, especially one particular morning as I was getting myself ready for school.

That morning, I remember, was really crazy even for my family. Cereal boxes were scattered, my brother's science project was on the kitchen table next to my ten-page biography report, along with the usual mess of permission slips, backpacks and binders. John's science project was so gross! He was studying the behaviors of roaches on garbage which is a lot like studying the behaviors of little kids on candy. His roaches were disgusting and after three weeks on a high-garbage diet, they had grown as big as rats.

Entering the kitchen hungry, I was craving my favorite cereal, Captain Crunch. Looking in the box, I noticed there was only enough for one person, so I was glad I had beat my brother to breakfast. As I turned my back to get a bowl and a spoon, my brother, who had tiptoed in, grabbed the box behind me and was almost starting to pour. I dropped what was in my hands and lunged for the box. I needed my Captain Crunch and he was not going to deprive me of it! The tug of war for that cereal began with lots of earnest grunting and ended with us sprawled across the table, knocking over his science project.

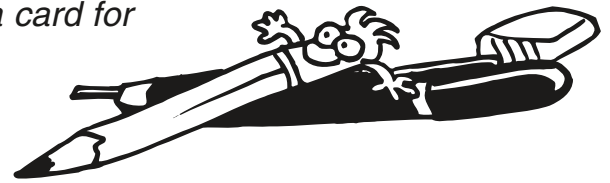
Roaches scampered everywhere! It was a regular Roachapalooza! Most of them settled smack in the middle of my report. These were no ordinary roaches but mutant bugs that could have easily worn a saddle. Now what?? Our bus would arrive soon and John needed his bugs in their jars and I needed my report bug free. We looked at each other, and we looked at the Captain Crunch, and it seemed we got the same idea at the same time. Lining up the pieces of the cereal one after another, we placed them at the openings of the jars, which lay on their sides. Apparently, roaches also enjoy our favorite cereal, because they rushed to their jars in a flash. After a few minutes, we packed ourselves off and caught the bus in plenty of time. The day was saved!

My brother and I never fought over Captain Crunch again. It's hard to be a fan of a cereal once you've seen a giant roach munch down on it.



Informational Four Square Plan #1

Prompt or Topic: Write and explain how you would make a card for someone special.



Gather materials

- different kinds of paper
- markers, pencils, pens
- glitter, stickers
- yarn, felt

Plan your design

- horizontal or vertical fold
- choose design and color scheme for cover
- materials placement
- message inside
- maybe add photos?

My little sister can be a pest, but she's also sweet and goofy, and that's why I love her so much. This week she has been down with a bad case of the flu, and she feels rotten. So I thought I would make a card to cheer her up. It's easy to do!

Create the card

- neon pink center heart
- balloons border
- surround with silver glitter
- rhyming message - easy to read
- photo from last birthday party

There you have it! An easy way to make anyone you care about feel special, and it really doesn't take much. All it costs is a little bit of time and lots of love.

Informational Essay #1

Prompt or Topic: Write and explain how you would make a card for someone special.

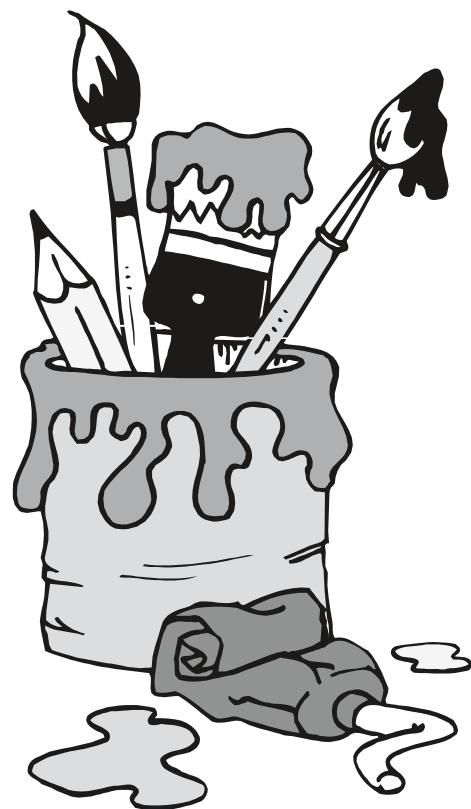
My little sister Tina can be a pest, but she's also sweet and goofy, and that's why I love her so much. This week she has been down with a bad case of the flu, and she feels rotten. So I thought I would make a card to cheer her up. It's easy to do!

Being organized is a must, so the first thing I'm going to do is gather up all my materials. I have lots of art supplies, so I am going to be sure to get different kinds of paper, like card stock, copy paper and construction paper in different colors. Markers, pens and pencils are also needed, so I'm grabbing a variety of colors that Tina enjoys. In this case, it's lots of pinks and purples. She's six - it's what they like! Just to make it extra fancy, I'm snatching up glitter, yarn and felt just in case I want to do something really artistic, like a collage.

Before I rush into anything, I think the sensible thing to do is have a plan, which will save time and materials. I use a plain sheet to draw out a couple of designs. Will it be a horizontal fold or a vertical one? What's going on the cover? A border of felt or glitter? Will I write a short message or one that rhymes? Will I place illustrations of her favorite animals or use a photo of family events? These are all decisions made in the planning stages that ensure a beautifully-made card.

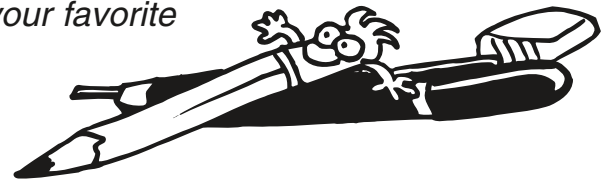
Finally, it's time to create! I begin by horizontally-folding a piece of purple construction paper. On top of that I put a bright neon pink heart with Tina's name written in swirly letters. A border of tiny balloons will go around the card and a border of silver glitter will go around the center heart. I've decided to go with a rhyming message, making sure to use words I know she can read by herself. Inside with a glitter pen of gold, I write: Roses are red, Your eyes are blue, I hope you feel better, I love you! I found a picture of the two of us eating cake at her last birthday party, so I have pasted that underneath the message. I sign my name at the bottom, and the very last thing I do is look the card over to see if there is anything more I would like to add. Not a thing! It's a finished product and ready to give to Tina!

There you have it! An easy way to make anyone you care about feel special and it really doesn't take much. All it costs is a little bit of time and lots of love.



Informational Four Square Plan #2

Prompt or Topic: Write and explain how you would make your favorite snack.



Gather ingredients

- favorite bread
- chunky peanut butter
- firm but ripe banana
- jar of honey

Materials and utensils

- the right music
- strong knife for spreading peanut butter
- favorite plate for sandwich
- cutting board for banana
- spoon for drizzling honey

When I am tired and hungry after a long day at school, there is only one snack that satisfies. It's sweet, crunchy and good for you! It's my world-famous peanut butter, banana and honey sandwich. The best thing besides the taste is that it's super easy to make!

Making the sandwich

- place bread side by side
- take 2 tbsp. of peanut butter and spread
- slice bananas quarter inch
- drizzle honey
- assemble and enjoy

After a long hard day, everyone deserves a snack that is comforting and healthy. Anyone can make this and feel better in no time!

Informational Essay #2

Prompt or Topic: Write and explain how you would make your favorite snack.

When I am tired and hungry after a long day at school, there is only one snack that satisfies. It's sweet, crunchy and good for you! It's my world-famous peanut butter, banana and honey sandwich. The best thing besides the taste is that it's super easy to make!

Begin by gathering all the ingredients for the sandwich. A favorite kind of bread is absolutely necessary. It should be tough enough to withstand lots of peanut butter and banana, so it can't be too thin. My favorite is multi-grain bread that is thickly sliced. The peanut butter should be chunky, whatever brand you like. Some people like it with smooth-style peanut butter, which is fine too. You have to go with what you enjoy. Now, the banana must be firm. One that is too ripe will be mushy, and then it will all taste like baby food. If the banana is not ripe enough, it will not be sweet and not mesh with the peanut butter and the honey. A good way to tell if a banana is ripe enough is that the skin is mostly a bright yellow with few black spots. Only a little bit of honey is being used, so any brand will do for this sandwich.

Another thing to do is get utensils and other materials. Whenever I make this sandwich, I like to put on some soothing music. My mom has some stress relief CDs with sounds of the rainforest. My favorite is the one with guitars playing softly while the sounds of the ocean are in the background. Then I get out a strong knife for spreading peanut butter. I also get out my favorite plate, something from my preschool days, with Big Bird on it. A cutting board for the banana slicing will help keep the counters clean, and a spoon is needed for the honey.

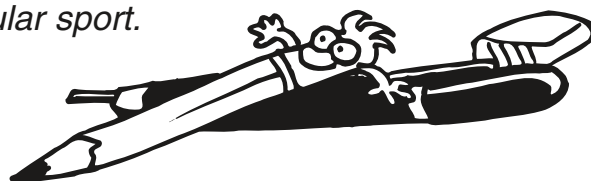
Finally, it's time to assemble the sandwich. Place the bread side by side. Take about two tablespoons of peanut butter and spread it on each piece of bread. The peanut butter should look like a lumpy blanket on the bread. Next, slice the bananas about a quarter inch thick. Not too thick or it will crash through the bread and make a mess. Arrange the banana slices side by side so they cover both pieces of bread, which is now slathered with peanut butter. Once that is done, take a teaspoon full of honey and slowly drizzle it over all of the bananas. Gently take one part of the sandwich and put it on top of the other. You are now ready to enjoy your creation.

After a long hard day, everyone deserves a snack that is comforting and healthy. Anyone can make this and feel better in no time!



Informational Four Square Plan #3

Prompt or Topic: Write and explain why you enjoy a particular sport.



Challenging

- fast moving game that changes quickly
- must pay attention and be aware of others
- quick thinking
- multi-task on the field

Keeps me in good shape

- practice two hours a day
- running drills, 3 miles daily
- strength training
- eating right or no energy for games

There are very few things in this world that are challenging, inspiring and good for your body and mind. That's why I love soccer. It's a sport that offers me so much.

Inspiring role models: Mia Hamm

- 1996 and 2004 led to Olympic medals
- retirement, still active
- many charities supporting girls sports
- Mia Hamm Foundation: bone marrow transplants

Soccer is such a big part of my life. It strengthens my body and mind and inspires me. I bet I'll still be playing when I am old and gray.

Informational Essay #3

Prompt or Topic: Write and explain why you enjoy a particular sport.

There are very few things in this world that are challenging, inspiring and good for your body and mind. That's why I love soccer. It's a sport that offers me so much.

If you are looking for a sport that is formidable and demanding, soccer is it! It's a fast moving game where the action can turn on a dime. There are strategic plays to commit to memory. Also, a player has to be aware of everyone on the field and be able to make decisions on dribbling and passing in the blink of an eye. A good player must be focused on the game but also be looking ahead to where the play is going. Not only is it necessary that you multi-task the skills of dribbling, running and passing the ball, but you must also make sure you don't run out of energy.

Keeping in shape is certainly an advantage in this sport. Practices are daily and last two-and-a-half hours. There is lots of running, and nothing keeps you in better shape than that! There are sprinting drills, dribbling drills and passing drills all done on the run. We are also required to trot 3 miles a day to warm up for practice. Then there is strength training with weights that includes lots of lunges and squats to ensure our legs stay strong for all that running! Exercise is only part of keeping in shape. In soccer you also have to eat right to have lots of energy. That means no junk food! Lean protein, fruits and vegetables and of course, lots of water, is on our training table.

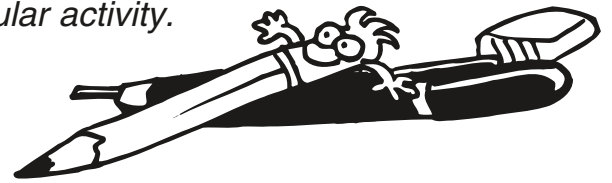
Soccer also offers me something for the heart. There are many players in the sport who I admire such as Mia Hamm. A powerhouse in the sport in the 1990s, she led the U.S. Women's Olympic team to medals in 1996 and 2004. Her presence in the sport inspired many girls to play and benefit from all the great things soccer can offer. Even after her retirement, Mia Hamm continues to work to support girls' sports programs all over the United States. She has even set up an organization called the Mia Hamm Foundation to support bone marrow transplants for those in need of them. She is an incredible role model.

Soccer is such a big part of my life. It strengthens my body and mind and inspires me. I bet I'll still be playing when I am old and gray.



Informational Four Square Plan #4

Prompt or Topic: Write and explain why you enjoy a particular activity.



Good memories

- grandma taught me when I was 8
- summer
- very hard at first
- she was patient
- encouraging

Challenging

- look at patterns
- try new stitches
- difficult projects like sweaters and socks

Some people think that knitting is only for grandmas, but they are wrong! Knitting is hip, fun and wildly popular. Of all the hobbies I have, it's my favorite!

Making gifts

- Christmas/birthdays: hats, scarves, baby blankets, socks
- Hats for servicemen
- Blankets for the homeless shelter

I'll always be grateful for my grandmother taking the time to teach me such a wonderful skill. It will be something I will teach my own grandchild when the time comes.

Informational Essay #4

Prompt or Topic: Write and explain why you enjoy a particular activity.

Some people think that knitting is only for grandmas but they are wrong! Knitting is hip, fun and wildly popular. Of all the hobbies I have, it's my favorite!

Of all the reasons I adore knitting, it's the fact that my granny Norma taught me that makes me love it the most. She taught me the summer I was eight years old and I was staying with her for the whole summer. Granny Norma lived way out in the country and she didn't believe in having a television, so she taught me how to knit to keep me busy. At first it was really hard. My fingers didn't work the way hers did with those needles. But she was very patient with me. She never gave up on me even when I got frustrated with myself. Granny Norma encouraged me with my first project, a yellow headband, which was uneven and misshapen, but when I finished it, she was so proud of me. Since then I've completed lots of things like scarves and baby blankets that look much better, and I owe it all to her.

Knitting can be easy once you learn, but if you're in the mood for a challenge, knitting can give it to you! There are tons of new stitches to try to create special effects on your project. Some of these are very complicated and require lots of practice. For example, there is a stitch called the drop stitch, which is used to create a pattern of open vertical stripes in a garment, which can produce a lace effect. There are also very complex patterns for those who want to knit sweaters with intricate detailing. Sweaters with ruffles on the sleeve or hats with Kermit the Frog's face knit all along the side can both be done with two knitting needles and some yarn. It's really amazing.

Do you love to make gifts for family and friends? Knitting is great for that! On major holidays like Christmas or Hanukkah and on birthdays, my friends and family almost always get a hat or a scarf. Not only is it personal, but it's practical. It's a gift that warms the head and heart! There are also many organizations, such as The Ships' Project, that accept knitted hats and slippers for servicemen and women in Afghanistan. The winters there are very severe and harsh, and having something homemade helps with soldiers' morale. Many homeless shelters also accept knitted items such as blankets and scarves, especially during the winter. Just this past winter I knitted eight scarves and three caps, and I donated them to our local mission house. It's a good feeling knowing that my efforts can help keep someone less fortunate than me warm on a cold night.

I'll always be grateful for my grandmother taking the time to teach me such a wonderful skill. It will be something I will teach my own grandchild when the time comes.



Persuasive Four Square Plan #1

Prompt or Topic: Write to persuade or convince someone to get a particular animal for a pet.



Smart

- easy to train; there are many resources for the dog owner
- dogs used for locating illegal drugs
- tracking escaped convicts
- helping the visually impaired and the blind

Good company

- sympathetic
- good listener
- cuddly
- keeps you from feeling lonely

Loyal, dependable, intelligent and comforting. There is only one animal that fits this description, and that is a dog. Without a doubt, dogs make the very best pets.

Great protection

- dog owners have less incidence of burglaries
- presence can deter criminals
- keen sense of hearing; alert
- hearty bark is enough to scare most would-be robbers

In my mind, there is no other animal that comes close to giving you all the love, company and protection that a dog can offer. It's the best addition any person can make to their family.

Persuasive Essay #1

Prompt or Topic: Write to persuade or convince someone to get a particular animal for a pet.

Loyal, dependable, intelligent and comforting. There is only one animal that fits this description, and that is a dog. Without a doubt, dogs make the very best pets.

To begin with, there is no other animal that is as intelligent as the dog. Dogs are used in many ways for many difficult tasks. For over half a century, dogs have been trained to help the visually impaired and blind have more productive and useful lives with an improved sense of safety and independence. In the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, dogs have also been used for bomb-sniffing details. This truly is life and death training. Would the military use anything but the most intelligent animal for this job? The same thinking applies to drug-sniffing dogs at airports. These dogs find illegal drugs that destroy lives and fund terrorist organizations. Honestly, have you ever heard of a drug-sniffing cat? Of course if you had one as a pet, you wouldn't use your dog for drug-sniffing or finding bombs. It should however ease your mind when it came to housetraining your dog or teaching your dog to walk with you when it's on a leash.

Not only are they smart, but dogs are also great company. Unlike many individuals, dogs are perfect listeners. If you are bothered by a problem or worry, dogs will listen without interrupting you. They will often nod at the appropriate places in your conversation. They are sympathetic and nurturing without saying a word. Somehow, they know exactly when to put their heads gently on your lap and stare up lovingly. They will also keep you from feeling lonely, whether it's on your couch watching a bit of television or going with you on your daily run. They are the perfect companions.

As established before, dogs are smart, so that makes them easy to train to be great protectors of your home. Dog owners have the lowest incidences of burglaries. The presence of most large dogs such as German Shepherds or Rottweilers can deter potential criminals from stepping foot onto your property. Their keen sense of hearing and hearty bark can ward off most robbers. This makes home life less worrisome and more relaxing. Not only do they ward off burglars, but they can also deter salesmen of all kinds from bothering you with offers for things you have no interest in buying. Once again, a dog in your family can solve all manner of dilemmas.

In my mind, there is no other animal that comes close to giving you all the love, company and protection that a dog can offer. It's the best addition any person can make to their family.



Persuasive Four Square Plan #2

Prompt or Topic: *Persuade or convince someone to change a habit to improve their health.*



Improved Health

- reduces rates of cancer
- reduces rates of heart disease
- minimizes weight gain
- improves skin tone

Easy and practical

- resources can be found anywhere
- library, internet, bookstores
- chat rooms to connect with other vegetarians
- cheaper; saves money

There are lots of things you could do to improve your health. Exercise, meditation, yoga are among several options. I believe the one change that would completely transform you and your body is changing to a vegetarian diet.

Good for the planet

- less killing may lead to a more peaceful planet
- help end world hunger
- end methane production from cattle

I believe that any change which improves your health, saves you money and betters the world would be appealing. Don't you think this is a change that you should seriously consider?

Persuasive Essay #2

Prompt or Topic: Persuade or convince someone to change a habit to improve their health.

There are lots of things you could do to improve your health. Exercise, meditation, yoga are among several options. I believe the one change that would completely transform you and your body is changing to a vegetarian diet.

To begin with, going vegetarian improves your health dramatically. There are hundreds of studies that all say the same thing: a vegetarian diet reduces risks of nearly every kind of cancer. Fruits and vegetables are a rich source of antioxidants, which contain cancer-fighting properties. The risk of heart disease is also lower if you have a vegetarian diet. There are many studies that compare the rate of heart disease in vegetarians and meat eaters. Can you guess which group lives the longest and leads the healthiest lives? Vegetarian diets also help minimize weight gain which not only lowers the risk of cancer and heart disease but also type 2 diabetes.

If you think it's difficult changing to a vegetarian lifestyle, you would be mistaken. There are many resources for those individuals wanting to make the change either gradually or all at once. The library is always a great and inexpensive resource to find information from recipes to nutritional facts to help you make the best decisions in your new eating habits. The internet is also a wonderful resource for more information about vegetarian organizations. As for shopping, well, it's easy to find fruits and vegetables in nearly every grocery store or in local farmers' markets. The goods they offer are plentiful and fresh. If that wasn't enough, then here's the clincher: it's actually cheaper to go vegetarian. Meat takes up a large portion of a typical household food bill, so going vegetarian is good for your bank account.

Still not convinced it's a good idea? How about this: it's better for the planet. Many philosophers believe that if most people embraced a vegetarian diet that doesn't harm any animals, then the planet would gradually become more peaceful and less war-like because of the lower incidences of harming living things. In addition, going vegetarian could help end world hunger. About half of the world's corn crops are now used to feed cattle. If most people would stop eating meat, then that corn could be used to feed those people, mostly children, who are starving in underdeveloped countries. A decrease in cattle raising would also lower methane production which contributes to global warming.

I believe that any change which improves your health, saves you money and benefits the world would be appealing. Don't you think this is a change that you should seriously consider?



Descriptive Four Square Plan #1

Prompt or Topic: Write and describe a special event.



Starting line

- north end of the park
- participants stretching
- last chance for bathroom break
- variety of outfits
- family runners

Along the route

- around the park twice
- path along the lake
- trees line the path
- spectators cheer
- volunteers hand water, orange slices

Magnificent race course! Eager runners! Spirited volunteers! The 10K Race Around the Lake to benefit cancer research was well organized and lots of fun. What a great day to get some exercise and help raise money for a good cause!

Towards the finish line

- high school band
- spectators with signs
- photographers catch you crossing
- high fives all around

Spending a morning with a crowd of enthusiastic and energetic people in a beautiful setting is not a bad way to spend a Sunday. Do you think you would enjoy this kind of fundraising event?

Descriptive Essay #1

Prompt or Topic: Write and describe a special event.

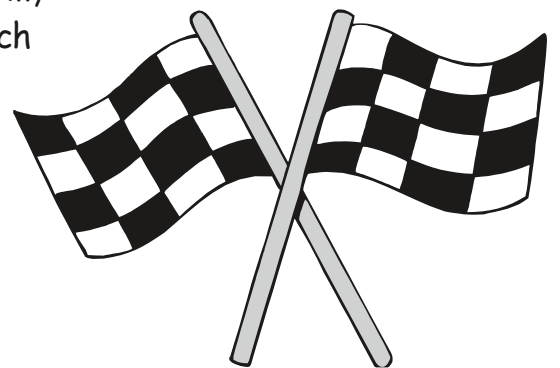
Magnificent race course! Eager runners! Spirited volunteers! The 10K Race Around the Lake to benefit cancer research was well organized and lots of fun. What a great day to get some exercise and help raise money for a good cause!

This 10K race began in Deerfield Park, located at the west end of our county. The park is a popular destination for many reasons. It has a huge lake in the middle of the park and a trail that runs around it. The starting line was at north end of the lakefront. There were tables set up with trays of bottled water, fresh bananas and bowls of orange wedges for hungry or thirsty runners. There was a row of about twenty-five Port-O-Potties for those who needed to heed the call of nature before we began. A few hundred runners were at the starting line. Some were very fit and muscular, and I could tell they were regular runners. Others looked like your mom or your teacher or your grandfather, not exactly athletes but still eager to participate. I saw many families lining up together, one in particular, a family of four that all had similar t-shirts with the family portrait on the front paired with neon green running shorts.

It was pretty crowded as the gun signaled the start of the race, but after a few minutes it thinned out and there was plenty of room to run or to walk. The path along the lake was gorgeous. From the path, there is a clear view of the lake, which is a smooth green and azure color. On that day with the sun shining directly, it took on a gorgeous sheen that made me want to just stop and admire it. On the opposite side of the path, trees lined the trail and along this side spectators held signs of encouragement and cheered us along as we ran by. Also along the trail, volunteers stood by holding out cups of water or orange slices for racers who needed hydrating. There were even some volunteers who picked up the cups and orange peels that the racers threw on the ground.

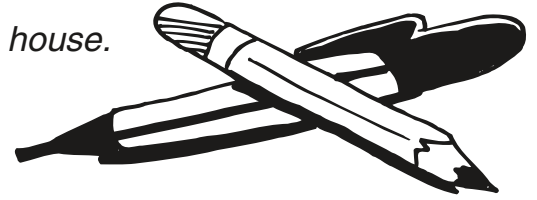
As I looked toward the finish line, I could hear the local high school band playing the theme from Rocky to give the approaching runners a last bit of inspiration and energy. There were more spectator signs with messages that read, "Way to Go!" and "Congratulations! You Did It!" There were cameras going off, and two were from professional photographers catching all the finishers during the magic moment of completion. I tried to look my best as they snapped my photo but it was hard to do with all the panting from that last bit of sprinting. Still, I joined the crowd of finishers congratulating and high fiving each other, feeling remarkably good that I was a part of something worthwhile.

Spending a morning with a crowd of enthusiastic and energetic people in a beautiful setting is not a bad way to spend a Sunday. Do you think you would enjoy this kind of fundraising event?



Descriptive Four Square Plan #2

Prompt or Topic: Write and describe a chore you do around the house.



The quiet approach

- barefoot with bathing suit
- soothing tones
- towel and a dog biscuit
- quick footed towards the bathroom

The bath

- the look of pain
- the soaking and look of wet seal
- using scrubbing bubbles
- the ear massage for calming

What's more difficult than walking an oily tightrope across two skyscrapers? Easy! Capturing and bathing my dog, Mel. Although it's a challenge few can master, it can be done.

Rinse and dry

- special spray hose
- water temperature just right
- conditioner to fight fleas
- blow dry gently
- brushing from the back end

Even though bathing Mel never gets any easier, I don't mind. Because when I'm all done, there is no better looking or smelling pooch anywhere!

Descriptive Essay #2

Prompt or Topic: Write and describe a chore you do around the house.

What's more difficult than walking an oily tightrope across two skyscrapers? Easy! Capturing and bathing my dog, Mel. Although it's a challenge few can master, it can be done.

The first part of this task was the hardest. Mel may be an old dog, but his hearing is very keen, and somehow he always knows when I am coming to snatch him up for a bath. So, this time I snuck up on him barefoot and wearing a bathing suit. I made very little noise that way. Plus we were both heading for the tub, so I figured I might as well be dressed for it. Approaching him with soothing tones, I immediately grabbed him and wrapped him with a towel so he couldn't squirm out of my arms as he has before. Before he knew what was happening, we were heading toward the bathroom.

The bath itself isn't too bad once Mel's in the tub. He does give me this look that's a mixture of betrayal and disappointment, and then follows it up with little whimpering sounds. I made sure the temperature in the tub was a relaxing but warm temperature, not too hot and not too cold. Soaking him down gives him the look of a short yet annoyed seal, and I'm sure if he could see himself in the mirror, he wouldn't be pleased. At this point I began scrubbing in his very special dog shampoo enriched with vitamins and aloe. He would never admit to liking this part, but standing there surrounded in a bountiful lather, he had the face of a very relaxed dog. It wasn't quite a smile, more like the face of satisfaction. I do believe it was the combination of the scrubbing bubbles and the behind-the-ears massage.

In order to rinse him so he doesn't squeal, I bought a special spray hose that gently distributes the water like a rainforest shower. I checked the temperature of the water and started rinsing the shampoo lather. Once that was done, I applied the conditioner to his coat. This conditioner is infused with rosemary and lavender, helps repel fleas and makes him smell like an aromatherapy candle. I mushed it into his coat quickly because last time he demonstrated the wet doggie shake just as I applied it. That stuff took hours to get off the bathroom walls. As soon as the conditioner was in, I combed it through, waited 5 minutes and then gave him another rinse. His favorite part of this whole ordeal comes when I dry him off using the big fluffy, very expensive "Mel towel." The dog smile comes out as I spent a good ten minutes fluffing up his coat with this luxurious towel. A quick blow dry on the low setting finished him off, and I sent him on his way to finish his napping.

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