Writing an Informational Essay

You have become an “expert” on one of the animals we were introduced to at Bournedale, now share that information in an informative report. You and your partner will work together to create an informational essay about your animal. After reading your essay, I will fully understand the animal written about in this essay.

Informational or Expository Writing: This type of writing explains something in detail. You will be explaining the life of your animal. The tone of this type of writing is serious, but you should present your topic or animal in an interesting manner. You have the research done. Now, you and your partner must take this into a written form.

1. The ESSAY -You have researched information by category for your tutorial. Use these categories to develop your writing.

For instance, your paper could be set up in this manner.

I. Introductory Paragraph- Animal
   a. Domain to species
   b. Body structure - this would be a brief statement introd. its uniqueness
   c. Diet- Again, briefly discussing what it eats
   d. Habitat- Where?
   e. Concluding sentence/Clincher leading into the rest of essay

II. Body Paragraphy - One- START WITH A TOPIC SENTENCE ABOUT HOW YOUR ANIMAL GETS AROUND THEN...
   a. Discuss body structure specifics - this may be several sentences
   b. How does the animal move?
   c. How does the structure of the animal aid its movement?
   d. An interesting statement or two about the animals movement
   e. A concluding/clincher statement leading into the next part of your essay

III. Body Paragraph - Two- START WITH TOPIC SENTENCE ABOUT YOUR ANIMALS EATING/NOURISHMENT PROCESS THEN...
a. Discuss how your animal gets its food/oxygen- this may be several sentences  
b. What type of foods your animal eats?  
c. Some interesting facts about how your animal obtains its food  
d. A concluding/clincher statement leading into the next part of your paper  

IV. Body Paragraph - Three- START WITH TOPIC SENTENCE ABOUT YOUR ANIMALS HABITAT and LIFE CYCLE THEN...  
a. Discuss your animals life cycle. How long is it? When how does it begin? Eggs? Larvae? etc.  
b. Discuss threats to its life cycle  
c. What is your animals habitat? Be specific.  
d. Concluding/clincher statement about the life cycle and habitat of your animal.  

V. Concluding paragraph- Start with a topic sentence about your interesting animal  
   A. Restate an idea about your animals body structure and movement  
   B. Restate an idea about your animal’s diet/food  
   C. Restate an idea about your animal’s life cycle  
   D. Conclude your essay with one or two interesting statements that wrap up your informational essay about this animal  

As you can see, this paper should be several pages in length. Let’s look at the requirements.  

REQUIREMENTS OF THIS COOPERATIVE GROUP WRITING ASSIGNMENT  

• You will be working with a partner.  
• Each partner will be responsible for a portion of the writing and editing.  
• You will submit an outline for you report/essay before starting the rough draft.  
• You will submit a rough draft that will be peer edited.  
• You will complete the writing assignment using specific information you have previously researched for your posterboard or iPad tutorial in science.  
• You must include at least FIVE of the key terms found in your science presentation.
• You will receive a grade for YOUR portion of the writing project (see rubric below).

• You will also receive a participation grade for the overall project. (see evaluation sheet below). This grade will be based on a combination of factors. I will observe your work in class. I will review how you helped your peer meet deadlines. I will review your self-evaluation and your peer's evaluation of your work.

• As always, if you don't have the rubric on the day the assignment is due or your project is late, you lose points. REMEMBER YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE POINTS FOR YOUR PEER PARTNER BY NOT HAVING YOUR WORK COMPLETED ON TIME. PLAN TOGETHER.

PLEASE SUBMIT BOTH RUBRICS AT THE TIME THIS PROJECT IS DUE. YOU WILL BE GIVEN SOME CLASS TIME FOR THIS. SOME WORK WILL BE COMPLETED AT HOME. USE YOUR TIME EFFICIENTLY.
NAME:___________________________________________
PARTNER’s NAME: __________________________________________
ANIMAL RESEARCHED:______________________________________

* I was responsible for the writing in paragraphs :
NOTE ALL THE PARAGRAPHS YOU WROTE HERE: _________________

WRITING RUBRIC- FOR A WRITING GRADE

• Student was responsible for at least two paragraphs of writing as noted below.
  20 points ______________________

• Writing is clear, organized and specific to one topic. The paragraphs include a topic sentence that directs the paragraph’s subject and ends with a clear, interesting clincher sentence that does NOT restate the topic sentence.
  30 points ______________________

• Student’s writing has been edited for spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors (specifically subject/verb agreement, pronoun antecedent issues, and commas).
  25 points ______________________

• Student’s writing demonstrates understanding of his or her audience. The writing presents facts about the animal in an interesting manner. The writer has included vivid verbs, strong adjectives and clear examples in his or her descriptions of the animal. The writer included at least three science vocabulary words in the two to three paragraphs he or she wrote.
  25 points ______________________

FINAL WRITING POINTS ______________________
NAME: _____________________________________________
PARTNER’s NAME: __________________________________
ANIMAL RESEARCHED: _________________________________

PARTICIPATION/GROUP WORK GRADE

EVALUATE YOURSELF: NOTING 1-5 after each statement
5 = the BEST, 1= the WORST

1. I used class time well.

2. I met all the deadlines set by my group.

3. I contributed my best work for this project.

4. I did most of the work. ( circle one) Yes  No  It was equal.

EVALUATE YOUR PEER: NOTING 1-5 after each statement
5 = the BEST, 1= the WORST

1. He/she used class time well.

2. He/she met all the deadlines set by my group.

3. He/she contributed my best work for this project.

4. He/she did most of the work. ( circle one) Yes  No  It was equal.

Teacher Evaluation/Comments based on Observation:

FINAL PARTICIPATION GRADE: __________________________