

STARTING POINTS: EXPLAINING A CONCEPT

A Focused Explanation

How do I come up with a concept to write about?

- Consider Possible Topics (pp. 134, 141, 147)
- Choose a concept to write about. (p. 151)
- Test Your Choice: Considering Your Purpose and Audience (p. 152)

How can I decide on a focus for my concept?

- Assess the genre's basic features: A focused explanation. (p. 122)
- Conduct initial research on the concept. (pp. 152–53)
- Focus your explanation of the concept. (p. 153)
- Test Your Choice: Evaluating Your Focus (p. 154)
- Conduct further research on your focused concept. (p. 154)

How can I make my concept clear and interesting to my readers?

- A Focused Explanation: Excluding Other Topics (p. 133)
- A Focused Explanation: Using an Example (p. 138)
- A Focused Explanation: Presenting Established Information and Your Own Ideas (p. 145)
- Focus your explanation of the concept. (p. 153)
- Test Your Choice: Evaluating Your Focus (p. 154)
- Write the opening sentences. (pp. 159–60)
- A Troubleshooting Guide: A Focused Explanation (pp. 162–63)

A Clear, Logical Organization

How should I organize my explanation so that it's logical and easy to read?

- Assess the genre's basic features: A clear, logical organization. (p. 122)
- A Clear, Logical Organization: Creating Closure (pp. 145–46)
- Draft your working thesis. (p. 154)
- Create an outline that will organize your concept explanation effectively for your readers. (p. 155)
- A Troubleshooting Guide: A Clear, Logical Organization (p. 163)

What kinds of cues should I provide?

- Assess the genre's basic features: A clear, logical organization. (p. 122)
- A Clear, Logical Organization: Cueing the Reader (p. 133)
- A Clear, Logical Organization: Creating Cohesion (p. 139)
- Draft your working thesis. (p. 154)
- Design your writing project. (p. 155)

Appropriate Explanatory Strategies

What's the best way to explain my concept? What writing strategies should I use?

- Assess the genre's basic features: Appropriate explanatory strategies. (p. 123)
- Appropriate Explanatory Strategies: Using Visuals (p. 134)
- Appropriate Explanatory Strategies: Using a Variety of Strategies (pp. 139–40)
- Appropriate Explanatory Strategies: Using Comparison-Contrast (p. 146)
- Consider the explanatory strategies you should use. (pp. 155–56)
- Use summaries, paraphrases, and quotations from sources to support your points. (p. 157)
- Use visuals or multimedia illustrations. (pp. 157–58)
- A Troubleshooting Guide: Appropriate Explanatory Strategies (p. 164)

Smooth Integration of Sources

How should I integrate sources so that they support my argument?

- Assess the genre's basic features: Smooth integration of sources. (pp. 123–24)
- Smooth Integration of Sources: Establishing Credibility (p. 134)
- Use appositives to integrate sources. (p. 158)
- Use descriptive verbs in signal phrases to introduce information from sources. (p. 159)
- A Troubleshooting Guide: Smooth Integration of Sources (p. 165)