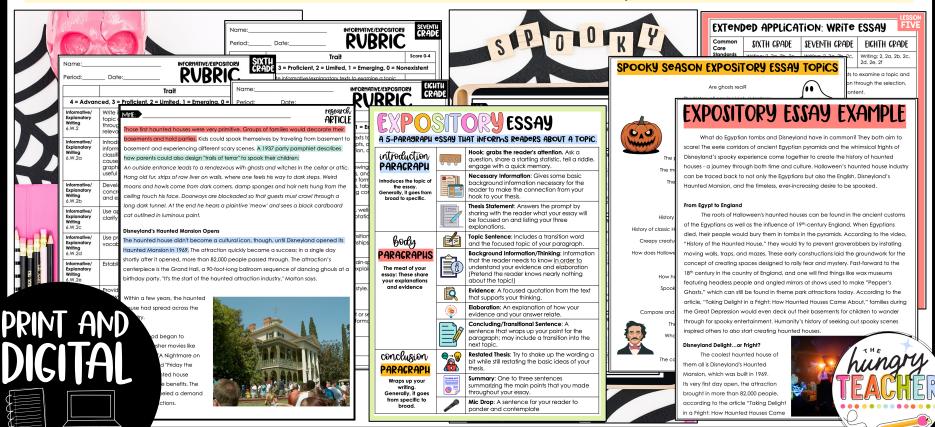
EXPOSITORY WRITING

MASTER EXPOSITORY WRITING THROUGH HIGH-INTEREST, SPOOKY-SEASON TOPICS



A MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA



SPOOKY SEASON EXPOSITORY WRITING UNIT

This flexible seasonal writing unit gives students the structure and scaffolds they need to master expository writing—while keeping them hooked with spooky, high-interest topics. Through modeled lessons, guided research, and scaffolded writing practice, students learn how to organize ideas, explain concepts clearly, and write polished essays with purpose and confidence. With teacher slides, editable student pages, and step-by-step instruction, this unit makes teaching informational writing both manageable and engaging.



6 step-by-step teacher lesson plans

6 step-by-step teacher PDF and Google Slides teaching presentations (close reading strategies, central idea, supporting details, author's purpose, evaluating mediums, and synthesizing evidence)



Fully scaffolded reading + analysis practice with modeled examples

Close reading annotation guides + graphic organizers

High-interest Halloween-inspired writing prompts and topics

Teacher answer keys, examples, and flexible pacing

100% digital student response notebook

SPOOKY SEASON EXPOSITORY WRITING UNIT

This **Spooky Season Expository Writing Unit** helps students master informative and explanatory writing through eerie, high-interest Halloween topics that make learning fun without losing academic rigor. Through scaffolded lessons, modeled research, and structured writing support, students learn how to organize information, explain ideas clearly, and craft polished essays that both inform and engage. With step-by-step pacing, editable slides, and student-friendly materials, it's the perfect mix of creativity and structure.

Here's what they'll learn:

- **Expository Writing Foundations:** Understand the purpose and structure of informative/explanatory writing and how it differs from narrative and argument writing.
- Research & Note-Taking: Gather information from credible sources and organize it logically for planning and drafting.
- Outlining & Organization: Turn notes into clear paragraphs with strong topic sentences, transitions, and elaboration.
- **Drafting & Revising:** Use modeled examples to draft introductions, develop ideas with relevant evidence, and refine essays for clarity and coherence.
- **Optional Presentation Extension:** Transform essays into short informational presentations to share spooky insights with classmates.

Why this works:

This unit takes a writing genre that can feel rigid or boring and makes it creative, meaningful, and fun. The spooky-season topics immediately capture student interest while the built-in scaffolds guide them through the full writing process—from brainstorming and researching to drafting and sharing. Students learn to write with clarity and purpose, and teachers gain a ready-to-use structure that simplifies planning and grading.

Perfect for:

Teachers who want to make expository writing engaging and manageable.
 Students who need step-by-step structure and motivation to write well.
 Any middle school ELA class focusing on informative writing, organization, or research during October (or any time you want to spark engagement).

teachers like you have said.

"I absolutely love every resource I buy from Martina. The layout is easy to follow, it correlates with her other resources, and has everything you need in it. The standards are aligned with every lesson, suggested responses are included, clear procedures, learning objectives, and so much more." – Julie N.



"This is an amazing resource and is well worth the price. It is so robust. I started with the text structures and objective summaries lessons, and students were very engaged." –Jill P.



"This is a great mix of interactive notebooks, independent reading, and teacher-modeled lessons. There were many different directions you could go depending on the makeup of the class." -Jessica R.



"I love using this resource. I struggle with nonfiction and this was very easy to use and engaging." —Courtney L.



"I love all of Martina's resources, so when I heard she was making a Halloween DIGITAL activity, I had to jump on it! This was perfect for my students to do remotely. They got to choose which activities they wanted to do, so I love the variety. Plus, most of these topics were already covered in class (thanks to her other units), so I didn't have to reteach anything!"
-Christian B.



"I am a former public school teacher turned homeschool teacher and I run my own novel studies outside of any box curriculum. This resource was very creative, my students loved the interactive notebook, and we really enjoyed the book choices. I would purchase more resources from The Hungry Teacher in the future!" –Kristen G.

DICITAL VERSIONS

DIRECTIONS FOR USING AND MAKING A COPY OF THE STUDENT PAGES:

Click on the links below

SIXTH GRADE COMMON CORE WRITING STANDARD ALIGNMENT

6.W.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
6.W.2a	Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to a cidina comprehension.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE LESSON OVERVIEW

Dear ELA Teacher,

Thank you for downloading the Expository Writing Mini-Unit (Spooky Season Edition)! This unit helps students master informative and explanatory writing while exploring highinterest, Holloween-themed topics. It's designed for grades 6-8 and is easy to adapt for your class time, tech, and teaching style.

 $^{ extstyle Q}$ Overview of the Unit Structure

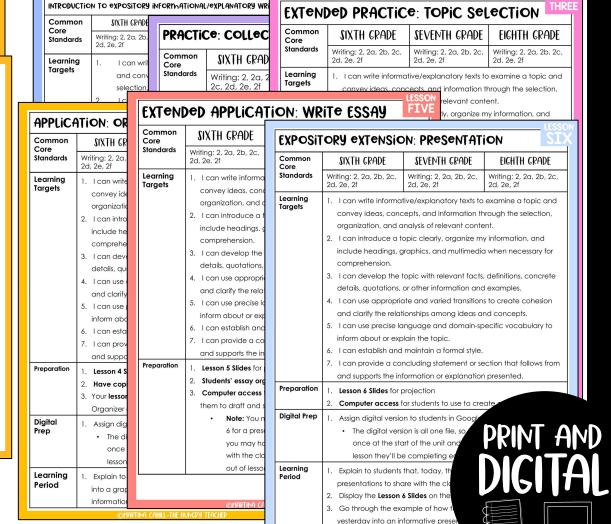
Lesson	Duration	Lesson Overview
1	1 Day	Introduction: Students are introduced to expository (informative/explanatory) writing and its purpose—to inform or explain a topic using clear organization and relevant evidence. Through guided notes and discussion, students learn the key features of expository writing and review how it differs from other genres. Teachers can model examples of strong explanatory paragraphs and guide students through analyzing purpose, structure, and transitions.
2	1 Day	Modeled Practice: Collecting Notes from Sources — Students practice research and note-taking using a shared example topic. The History of Haunted Houses. Together, the class reads a short article and/or watches a brief video to model how to identify main ideas, key details, and supporting evidence. Students record notes on a graphic organizer and discuss how these notes might inform an explanatory essay.
3	1 Day	Topic Selection & Independent Research: Students choose a high-interest Halloween or spooky-season topic (e.g., jack-o'-lanterns, haunted attractions, classic horor authors, cultural traditions, etc.) from a provided list or brainstom their own. They gather key facts and organize their information using a research graphic organizer. Teachers can circulate to help students refine topics and locate credible sources.
4	1 Day	Planning & Outlining: Students learn to organize their ideas into a clear five-paragraph expository essay structure. Using their notes, they create an outline that includes a hook, background information, thesis statement, and three main body paragraphs with supporting details and transitions. Teachers model how to transform notes into a cohesive structure and how to ensure ideas progress logically.
5	1 Day	Draffing the Essay: Students use their outlines to write complete drafts of their expository essays. Teachers can provide sentence frames, writing checklists, or mini-lessons on crafting topic sentences, transitions, and elaboration. Emphasis should be placed on clarity, organization, and explanation rather than opinion or argument. Students may peer review or conference to strengthen writing before revision.
6	1 Day OPTIONAL EXTENSION	Presenting & Sharing: Students turn their completed essays into short, informative presentations or mini "Spooky Season Exposés." They create slides or posters that summarize their topic, highlight interesting facts, and visually represent key details. Teachers can guide students in using headings, visuals, and speaking skills to effectively communicate information to

@MARTINA CAHILL_THE HUNCRY TEACH

an audience

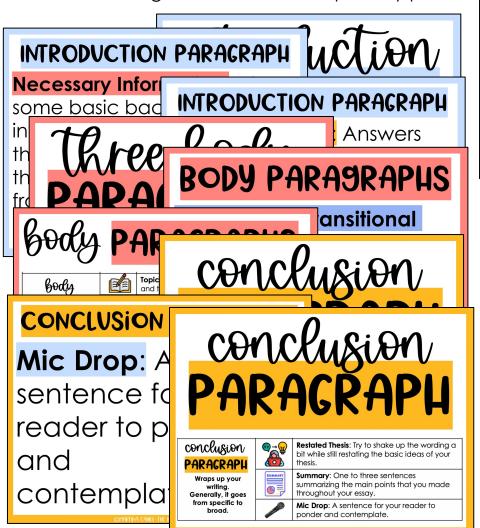
STEP-BY-STEP TEACHER LESSON PLANS

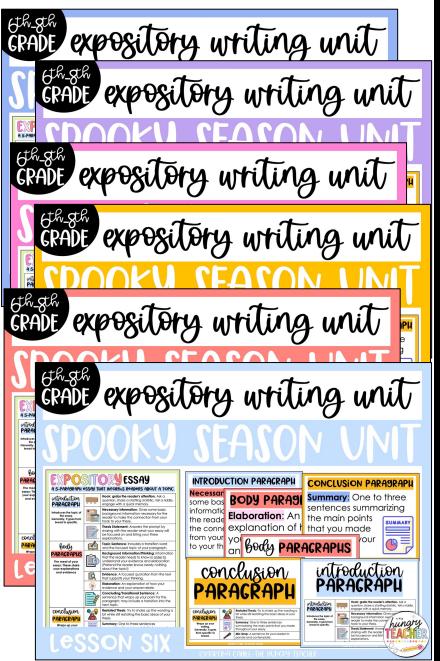
Includes lesson plans, lesson materials, full-size reference materials, and graphic organizers.



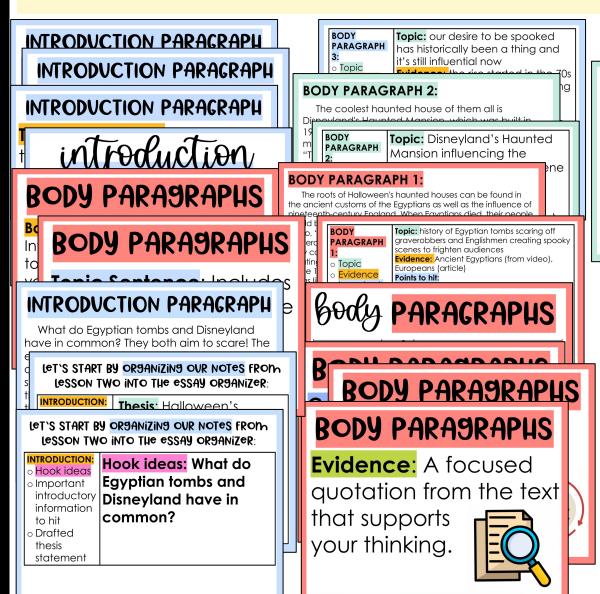
LESSON PRESENTATIONS

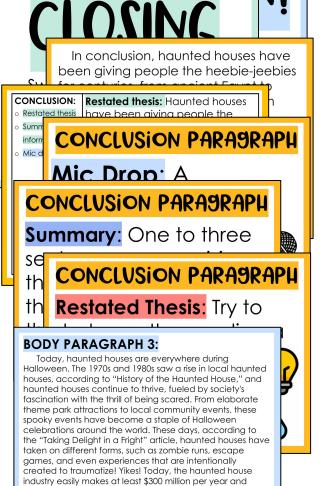
PDF and Google Slides lesson presentations for every lesson to display for students while taking notes or learning how to write an expository piece.





AN EXAMPLE OF LESSON FIVE'S SLIDES



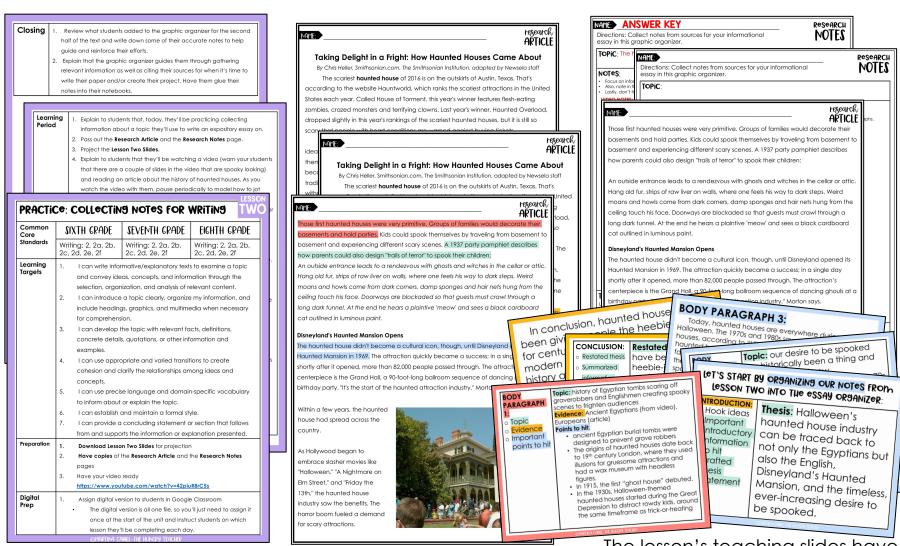


continues to grow in popularity. With new technology and even better storytelling experiences, haunted houses are

only getting scarier and cooler!

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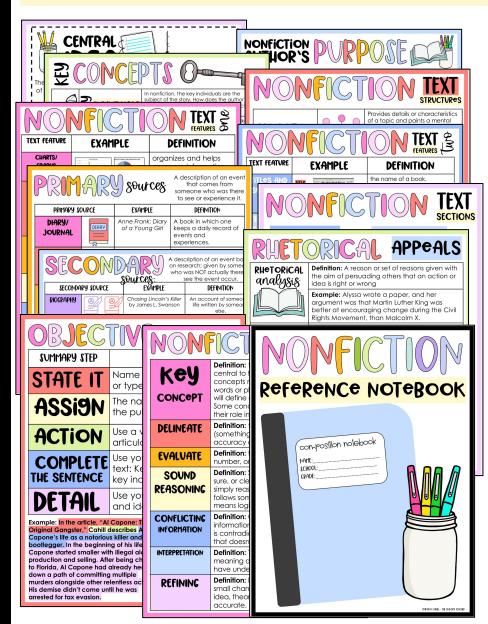
EXAMPLE OF A LESSON PLAN AND RESOURCES

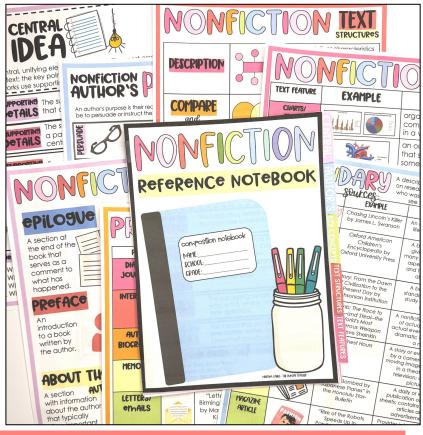


Each lesson plan has a section for the standards, objective, prep, digital prep, a learning period, a writing conference section, and closing. It also includes any student materials.

The lesson's teaching slides have everything you need to teach the lesson: teaching slides, examples, and concept break downs.

STUDENT NONFICTION REFERENCE PAGES

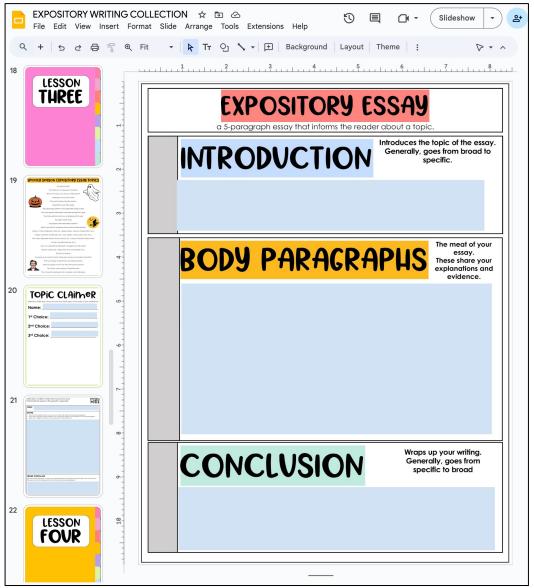


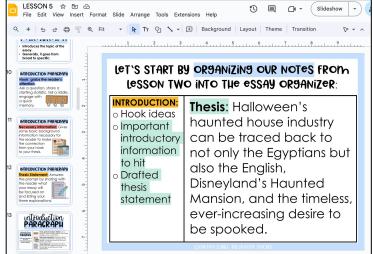


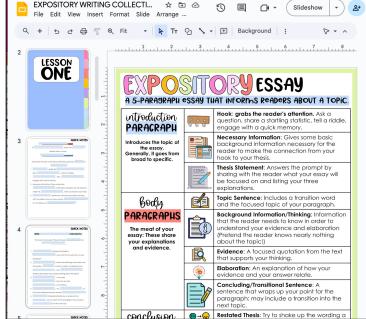
COMES IN SIX DIFFERENT VERSIONS:

- . Tabbed mini-page in full-color
- 2. Tabbed mini-page in black and white
- 3. Non-tabbed mini-page in full-color
- 4. Non-tabbed mini-page in black and white
- 5. Full-page in full-color
- 6. Full-page black and white

DIGITAL STUDENT NOTEBOOK AND GOOGLE TEACHER SLIDES







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THANK YOU SO MUCH!



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