

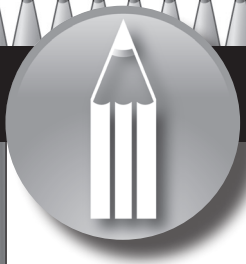


Grade 2 Informational Writing Guide

Student Pages for Print or Projection

SECTION 5: Introductions and Conclusions

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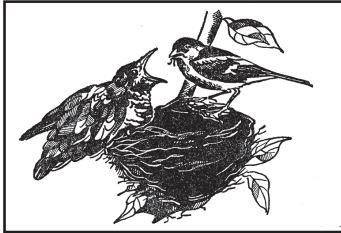


Student Page

Name: _____

INFORMATIONAL PILLAR - INTRODUCTION

Outline the *introduction* on the INFORMATIONAL PILLAR below in red. Then, read the paragraph below with your class. Next, fill in the *summarizing framework* and circle the *informational verbs*. Finally, fill in the TOPIC and MAIN IDEAS on the pillar.



INTRODUCTION
Topic: _____

Main Idea #1: _____

Detail	Detail
Detail	Detail

Main Idea #2: _____

Detail	Detail
Detail	Detail

Birds build many kinds of nests. Let's learn about the various shapes of birds' nests and discover where nests are built.

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____



Student Page

Name: _____

USING INFORMATIONAL VERBS TO CREATE INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPHS

Look at each Informational Summarizing Framework, below. Use the *informational verbs* to write an introduction paragraph for each summary plan. Your teacher will MODEL the first one. Then you practice numbers 2 and 3. Be sure to include the TOPIC and each MAIN IDEA.

1. **TOPIC:** Sun Protection

MAIN IDEA #1: Sunscreen

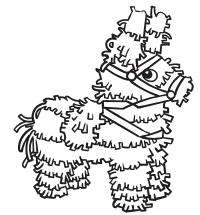
MAIN IDEA #2: Sunglasses



2. **TOPIC:** Party Games

MAIN IDEA #1: Outdoor Games

MAIN IDEA #2: Indoor Games



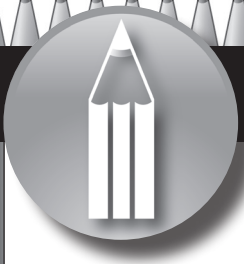
3. **TOPIC:** Ice Cream

MAIN IDEA #1: Flavors

MAIN IDEA #2: Toppings



- learn about • understand • discover • explore • examine
- uncover • find out • focus on • remember



Student Page

Name: _____

WHICH INTRODUCTION WOULD YOU RATHER READ?

Think about what you've learned about effective introduction paragraphs. Read each pair of introductions. Place a check (✓) beside the more effective introduction in each pair. Then, with your class, discuss what makes it the more effective introduction paragraph.

1. *Hi. My name is James. This is my report about black bears. I hope you enjoy reading my report.*

Black bears are interesting creatures. Let's learn to recognize their appearance and investigate black bear behavior.

2. *Have you ever walked in the woods? In this piece we'll investigate the woodland landscape and discover the many creatures that live in the woods.*

This report is about the woods. I'll tell you about the landscape and the animals there.

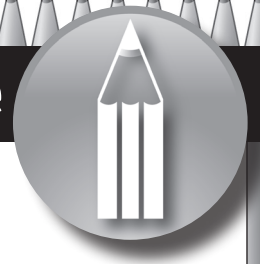
3. *This is my opinion piece about summer. You'll see why I like swimming, school vacation, and camp. I hope you agree that summer is great.*

Are you as excited about summer as I am? Do you love swimming on hot summer afternoons? Does dreaming of summer vacation bring a smile to your face? Have you ever enjoyed two weeks of summer camp? These are the reasons I love summer!

4. *How to stay healthy? Eat healthy food and get enough sleep. That's what my report is about.*

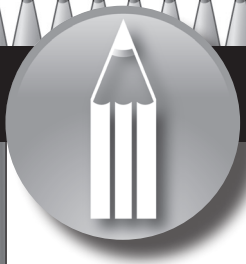
Everyone wants to stay healthy. Discover how eating healthy foods and learn how getting plenty of sleep helps us to feel our best.

BONUS: Go back and circle all of the informational verbs!



SENTENCE STARTERS FOR INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever thought about _____?
- Did you know that _____?
- Wouldn't it be interesting to learn about _____?
- Have you wondered what/where/how _____?
- Would you recognize _____?
- Are you curious about _____?
- Wouldn't you like to investigate _____?
- Why not discover _____?
- Have you ever explored _____?
- Wouldn't it be interesting to understand _____?
- Would you like to become familiar with _____?
- Will you come along and learn about _____?
- Why not read on and discover _____?
- Are you interested in _____?
- Do you know what _____?



Student Page

Name: _____

USING QUESTIONS TO WRITE INTRODUCTIONS

Look at the summarizing framework and introduction paragraph, below. Then, read the second version of this introduction. What's different about the second version?

TOPIC: Fire Safety

MAIN IDEA #1: Preventing fires

MAIN IDEA #2: What to do if a fire breaks out

1. *This piece will discuss fire safety. We'll learn about how to prevent fires, and discover what to do if a fire ever breaks out.*
2. *Have you ever thought about fire safety? Do you know ways to prevent fires? What is the right thing to do when a fire breaks out? This piece will explore these questions.*

Let's look at two more introduction paragraphs. Read the introduction, and then fill in the summarizing framework. Finally, with your class, rewrite the introduction using questions.

Doing chores builds responsibility. Let's explore the kinds of chores kids can do, and discuss the benefits gained by doing chores.

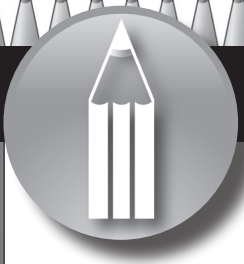
TOPIC: _____
MAIN IDEA #1: _____
MAIN IDEA #2: _____

Rewrite this, expressing the TOPIC and MAIN IDEAS as questions.

Armadillos are unique creatures. We'll learn what they look like and discover their unusual behaviors.

TOPIC: _____
MAIN IDEA #1: _____
MAIN IDEA #2: _____

Rewrite this, expressing the TOPIC and MAIN IDEAS as questions.



Student Page

Name: _____

REVISING WEAK INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPHS

Look at each summarizing framework and at the introduction that was based on the summarizing framework. Think about what the author left out and REVISE the introduction! Use the informational verbs and sentence starters. Then compare the BEFORE and AFTER versions.

1. **TOPIC:** Fourth of July Celebrations **BEFORE:** This report is all about the Fourth of July.

Main Idea #1: Barbecues

Main Idea #2: Fireworks

AFTER: _____

2. **TOPIC:** Healthy Snacks **BEFORE:** I'm going to write about snacks.

Main Idea #1: Fruit

Main Idea #2: Veggies and Dip

AFTER: _____

3. **TOPIC:** Seashore Habitat **BEFORE:** Hi. This is my informational piece about
Main Idea #1: Landscape how it is at the seashore. I hope you like my
Main Idea #2: Wildlife report.

AFTER: _____

learn about • understand • discover • explore • examine
• uncover • find out • focus on • remember



Student Page

Name: _____

ADDING AN INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH (1)

Read this excerpt from an informational report. It is just the body of the piece. The other important parts are missing. See if you can figure out the TOPIC and MAIN IDEAS and fill them in on the pillar. What parts of the pillar are missing?

Do you know what a hummingbird looks like? These birds are so small that you might mistake one for a bumblebee! Some hummingbirds are just 2 inches from beak to tail! These tiny birds come in many bright colors. But most hummingbirds have some green feathers. Their feathers are *iridescent* – they seem to shine. Hummingbirds have long, thin beaks that they use to suck nectar from flowers. When flying, their wings move so fast that they look like a blur.



Where do hummingbirds live? You might be surprised to learn that they only live in North and South America. Hummingbirds that live in North America during the summer *migrate* almost 2,000 miles south for the winter, then back again. They can be found in woodlands, grasslands, and deserts – anyplace where flowers grow. The females build their nests in the V shape between the branches of a tree. They build their nests with moss, dandelion fuzz, feathers, bits of leaves and bark, and spider silk!

TOPIC

Main Idea #1 _____

Detail	Detail
Detail	Detail

Main Idea #2 _____

Detail	Detail
Detail	Detail



Name: _____

_____ title

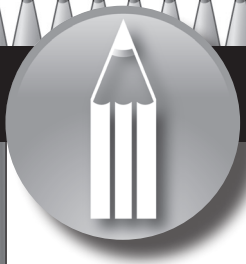
Introduction:

Informational Verbs

- learn about • understand • discover • explore • examine
- uncover • find out • focus on • remember

Sentence Starters:

- Did you know that _____?
- Wouldn't it be interesting to learn about _____?
- Have you wondered what/where/how _____?
- Would you recognize _____?
- Are you curious about _____?
- Wouldn't you like to investigate _____?



Student Page

Name: _____

ADDING AN INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH (2)

Read this excerpt from an informational report. It is just the body of the piece. The other important parts are missing. See if you can figure out the TOPIC and MAIN IDEAS and fill them in on the pillar. What parts of the pillar are missing?

There are many activities for families at Yellowstone National Park. The Park offers programs for kids to earn a Junior Ranger badge. There are tours of the Geyser Basin, where you can see hot water shooting out of the Earth, boiling mud basins, and steaming hot springs. With over 3,000 square miles of park land there is plenty of space for biking, hiking, and camping! Its lakes and rivers offer boating and white-water rafting. Perhaps what people enjoy doing most is watching the wildlife.



So, what kinds of animals can be seen at Yellowstone? There are over 67 kinds of mammals in the park, including elk, bison, moose, and bighorn sheep. You may also spot predators like bears, coyotes, wolves, and bobcats. Birdwatchers enjoy Yellowstone, where they can see everything from eagles and swans to bluebirds and woodpeckers. There are over 300 kinds of birds in Yellowstone! So, when you visit, be sure to bring some binoculars and your camera!

TOPIC

Main Idea #1

Detail	Detail
Detail	Detail

Main Idea #2

Detail	Detail
Detail	Detail



Name: _____

_____ title

Introduction:

Informational Verbs

- learn about • understand • discover • explore • examine
- uncover • find out • focus on • remember

Sentence Starters:

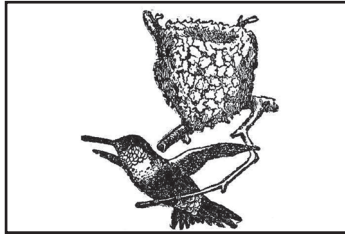
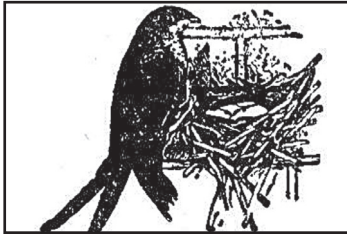
- Did you know that _____?
- Wouldn't it be interesting to learn about _____?
- Have you wondered what/where/how _____?
- Would you recognize _____?
- Are you curious about _____?
- Wouldn't you like to investigate _____?



Name: _____

INFORMATIONAL PILLAR - CONCLUSION

Outline the *conclusion* on the INFORMATIONAL PILLAR below in red. Then, read the paragraph below with your class. Next, fill in the *summarizing framework* and circle the *informational verbs*. Finally, fill in the TOPIC and MAIN IDEAS on the pillar.



INTRODUCTION

Topic: _____

Main Idea #1: _____

Detail	Detail
Detail	Detail

Main Idea #2: _____

Detail	Detail
Detail	Detail

CONCLUSION

Have you ever seen a bird building a nest? We've discovered that nests come in all shapes, materials, and sizes. We also understand that birds build their nests in many interesting places. Surely, if you look carefully outside you can spy many different bird nests!

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____



Name: _____

FIND THE MATCHING CONCLUSION (1)

Read the summarizing frameworks and the conclusion paragraphs below. Draw a line matching the summarizing framework with the corresponding conclusion paragraph.

Summarizing Framework:

TOPIC: Collections

MAIN IDEA #1: Rocks

MAIN IDEA #2: Coins

MAIN IDEA #3: Shells

Summarizing Framework:

TOPIC: Art Class

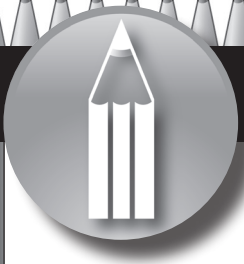
MAIN IDEA #1: Drawing

MAIN IDEA #2: Painting

Art class is the best part of my week! Learning to draw people and animals is so much fun. Mixing colors and spreading them with a paintbrush to paint a scene is like entering another world. I know art class will make me an artist someday.

What would you like to collect? Making a display of small rocks from places you visit is one kind of collection. Other people collect coins from around the world. Finding and keeping seashells is another kind of collection to enjoy. These are just three types of collections. The possibilities are endless!

BONUS: Which of these conclusions belongs to an opinion piece? How do you know?



Student Page

Name: _____

FIND THE MATCHING CONCLUSION (2)

Read the summarizing frameworks and the conclusion paragraphs below. Draw a line matching the summarizing framework with the corresponding conclusion paragraph.

Summarizing Framework:

TOPIC: Working Dogs

MAIN IDEA #1: Police dogs

MAIN IDEA #2: Herding dogs

MAIN IDEA #3: Seeing-eye dogs

Dogs can be trained to do amazing jobs. These smart canines work with police. Others help farmers herd sheep and cows. Many blind people have seeing-eye dogs who become their eyes. These are just three more reasons we call dogs “man’s best friend!”

Summarizing Framework:

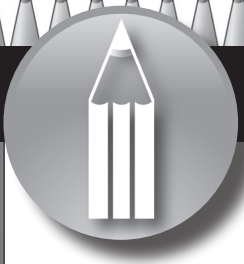
TOPIC: Soccer

MAIN IDEA #1: Equipment

MAIN IDEA #2: Teamwork

Without a doubt, soccer is a popular sport for kids. Remember, you need the right equipment. And, winning takes a lot of teamwork! Maybe you’ll want to join a soccer team!

BONUS: What are two word referents used in place of the word “dogs?”



Student Page

Name: _____

WHICH CONCLUSION WOULD YOU RATHER READ?

Think about what you've learned about effective conclusion paragraphs. Read each pair of conclusions. Place a check (✓) beside the more effective conclusion in each pair. Then, with your class, discuss what makes it the more effective conclusion paragraph.

1. *So that is the end of my report on black bears. THE END*

If you're ever in the woods, be on the lookout for a black bear. You'll definitely recognize them by their appearance. You will also be familiar with black bear behavior. They certainly are interesting creatures.

2. *Next time you take a stroll along a woodland path notice the landscape. If you look closely and are very quiet you might observe the wildlife there. The woodland is definitely a perfect place for nature-lovers.*

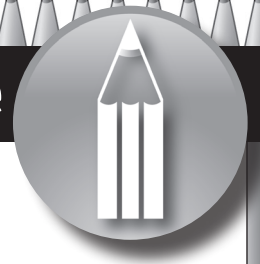
I hope you liked my report about the woods. You know about the landscape and the wildlife. That's it.

3. *So now you know my opinion about summer. You see why I like swimming, school vacation, and camp. Do you like summer?*

Now can you understand why summer is my favorite season? Can you imagine taking a dip in the pool on a hot afternoon? Do you dream of a vacation to an exotic, faraway place? Does the idea of two weeks at summer camp fill you with excitement? If so, summer is probably your favorite season too!

4. *So, that is how to stay healthy. Eat right and get lots of sleep. I hope you liked my report.*

The key to good health is eating the right foods and getting enough sleep. Remember these tips if you want to stay happy and healthy!



DEFINITIVE WORDS AND PHRASES

These types of words help you sum up your informational and opinion pieces with authority.

Without a doubt

After all

For sure

Surely

Clearly

Truly

Certainly

Definitely

Absolutely

INFORMATIONAL VERBS

These types of words can help you restate your main idea or main reasons in your conclusion paragraph.

learn about

understand

discover

explore

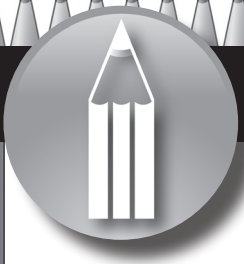
examine

uncover

find out

focus on

remember



Student Page

Name: _____

SUMMING IT ALL UP WITH DEFINITIVE WORDS & PHRASES

Look at the powerful definitive phrases in the box below. Using these words in your conclusion paragraph gives it strength and style.

Definitive Words and Phrases

- Without a doubt
- Surely
- Certainly
- Clearly
- After all
- Definitely
- For sure
- Truly

Now, look at the before and after conclusion paragraphs, below. See how the definitive words improve the paragraph?

BEFORE:

Camping in your own backyard can be an adventure. Build a simple tent, bring some snacks, and a flashlight. It will be a night you won't forget.

AFTER:

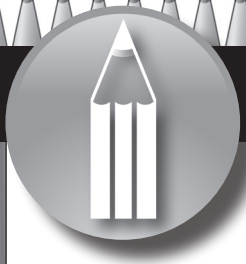
Without a doubt, camping in your own backyard can be an adventure. Build a simple tent, bring some snacks, and a flashlight. It **certainly** will be a night you won't forget.

Now it's your turn! Add a definitive word or phrase at each *caret*. Then read the "before" and "after" versions. Which is stronger?

^ School bus safety is important! Following directions from the driver is a must.
Staying seated is another rule that ^ needs to be followed. Doing these things will ^
keep everyone safe.

BONUS: Read the conclusion paragraph below. Add your own *carets* to insert at least two *definitive words or phrases*!

When biking or skating, wearing a helmet will keep you safe. Helmets come in all sizes, styles, and colors, so you can pick one you like. This important headgear prevents head injuries if you fall. Don't ever ride or skate without a helmet!



Student Page

Name: _____

FROM SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK TO CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH

REMEMBER: One way to write an effective conclusion paragraph is to combine the TOPIC and MAIN IDEAS with informational verbs and/or definitive words and phrases to remind the reader what she or he learned. Read each SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK below. Then, fill in the TOPIC and MAIN IDEAS to create a CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH for each. Go back and circle all of the *definitive words and phrases!*

1. **TOPIC:** Feeding the Birds

MAIN IDEA #1: Kinds of Bird Feeders

MAIN IDEA #2: Types of Birds

There is a lot to know about feeding the birds in your backyard. There are certainly many _____ to choose from, and you'll definitely see different _____ at your feeder. Without a doubt, _____ will teach you a lot!



2. **TOPIC:** Desert Habitat

MAIN IDEA #1: Desert Landscape

MAIN IDEA #2: Desert Wildlife

Reading about the _____ might encourage you to visit a desert spot. Truly, there's much to see in the _____. If you do visit, be on the lookout for the wide variety of _____. The _____ is surely worth learning about!



3. **TOPIC:** Weather

MAIN IDEA #1: How to Predict the Weather

MAIN IDEA #2: Types of Storms

Look outside and think about the _____. Knowing _____ is certainly helpful when planning outdoor events. Being able to recognize different _____ will surely help keep you safe. After all, we face the _____ every single day!





Student Page

Name: _____

USING DEFINITIVE WORDS & PHRASES TO CREATE CONCLUSION PARAGRAPHS

Look at each Informational Summarizing Framework below. Use the definitive words and phrases to write a conclusion paragraph for each summary plan. Your teacher will MODEL the first one. Then you practice numbers 2 and 3. Be sure to restate the TOPIC and MAIN IDEA.

1. TOPIC: Sun Protection

MAIN IDEA #1: Sunscreen

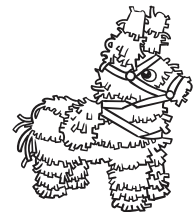
MAIN IDEA #2: Sunglasses



2. TOPIC: Party Games

MAIN IDEA #1: Outdoor games

MAIN IDEA #2: Indoor games



3. TOPIC: Ice Cream

MAIN IDEA #1: Flavors

MAIN IDEA #2: Toppings



- Without a doubt • After all • For sure • Surely • Clearly
- Truly • Certainly • Definitely • Absolutely



Student Page

Name: _____

ADDING A CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH (1)

Read this excerpt from an informational report. It is just the body of the piece. The other important parts are missing. See if you can figure out the TOPIC and MAIN IDEAS and fill them in on the pillar. What parts of the pillar are missing?

Do you know what a hummingbird looks like? These birds are so small that you might mistake one for a bumblebee! Some hummingbirds are just 2 inches from beak to tail! These tiny birds come in many bright colors. But most hummingbirds have some green feathers. Their feathers are *iridescent* – they seem to shine. Hummingbirds have long, thin beaks that they use to suck nectar from flowers. When flying, their wings move so fast that they look like a blur.



Where do hummingbirds live? You might be surprised to learn that they only live in North and South America. Hummingbirds that live in North America during the summer *migrate* almost 2,000 miles south for the winter, then back again. They can be found in woodlands, grasslands, and deserts – anyplace where flowers grow. The females build their nests in the V shape between the branches of a tree. They build their nests with moss, dandelion fuzz, feathers, bits of leaves and bark, and spider silk!

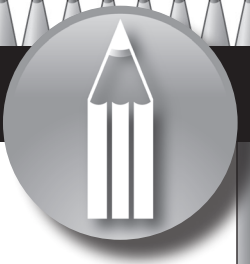
TOPIC

Main Idea #1 _____

Detail	Detail
Detail	Detail

Main Idea #2 _____

Detail	Detail
Detail	Detail



Name: _____

_____ title

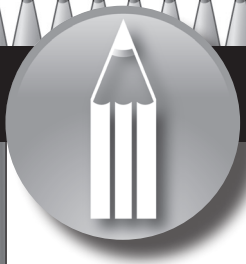
Conclusion:

Informational Verbs

- learn about • understand • discover • explore • examine
- uncover • find out • focus on • remember

Sentence Starters:

- Now you've learned about _____.
- There is a lot to know about _____.
- We've discovered _____.
- We can recognize _____.
- It's interesting to investigate _____.
- Now we're familiar with _____.



Student Page

Name: _____

ADDING A CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH (2)

Read this excerpt from an informational report. It is just the body of the piece. The other important parts are missing. See if you can figure out the TOPIC and MAIN IDEAS and fill them in on the pillar. What parts of the pillar are missing?

There are many activities for families at Yellowstone National Park. The Park offers programs for kids to earn a Junior Ranger badge. There are tours of the Geyser Basin, where you can see hot water shooting out of the Earth, boiling mud basins, and steaming hot springs. With over 3,000 square miles of park land there is plenty of space for biking, hiking, and camping! With its lakes and rivers, Yellowstone offers boating and white-water rafting. Perhaps what people enjoy doing most is watching the wildlife.



So, what kinds of animals can be seen at Yellowstone? There are over 67 kinds of mammals in the park including elk, bison, moose, and bighorn sheep. You may also spot predators like bears, coyotes, wolves, and bobcats. Birdwatchers enjoy Yellowstone, where they can see everything from eagles and swans to bluebirds and woodpeckers. There are over 300 kinds of birds in Yellowstone! So, when you visit be sure to bring some binoculars and your camera!

TOPIC

Main Idea #1 _____

Detail	Detail
Detail	Detail

Main Idea #2 _____

Detail	Detail
Detail	Detail



Name: _____

_____ title

Conclusion:

Informational Verbs

- learn about • understand • discover • explore • examine
- uncover • find out • focus on • remember

Sentence Starters:

- Now you've learned about _____.
- There is a lot to know about _____.
- We've discovered _____.
- We can recognize _____.
- It's interesting to investigate _____.
- Now we also understand _____.