Expositions

What are expositions and why do we write them?

Expositions are written to present a logical argument from a particular point of view by developing ideas with supporting details, in order to persuade the reader or audience.

What are the different forms?

There are two different forms of expositions:

1. Justification of a position, for example: The Internet is a useful tool in education.
2. Justification of a position and recommendation proposing change, for example: Internet access for children should be monitored.

What structure is needed in an exposition?

An exposition includes:

- A statement of position - Here the writer takes a positive or negative stance towards a topic or issue. You may also briefly introduce your arguments.
- Arguments and supporting evidence
- Conclusion - The conclusion reinforces the writers position and recommendations.

What are the main language features?

- **Language of opinion**, for example: **I believe** all children should have a computer for school.
- **Language to indicate sequence,** for example: **In addition, ...**
- **Language of modality**, for example: Using too much technology **must** be stopped.
- **Language of cause/effect**, for example: Using too much technology **causes** eye damage.

What other features are there?

Persuasive language.

Expositions use persuasive language to influence the reader and audience, for example: rhetorical questions, emotive word choices, words and instructions that would appeal to the audience.

Technical language

This language is written specifically to relate to the topic, for example: dinosaurs, Jurassic, prehistoric, habitat.

Timeless present tense

The timeless present is the main tense used in expositions. However, other tenses may be used when necessary, for example: when presenting background information, the past tense could be used. Alternatively, to present proposals for change, you may refer to the future tense.

What skills are needed and developed when writing expositions?

Researching, surveying, taking notes, summarising and interviewing.