

Power Word: Explain

This is a guide for the video on the word Explain.

Be prepared to take notes and pause the video when necessary.

Guided Notes:

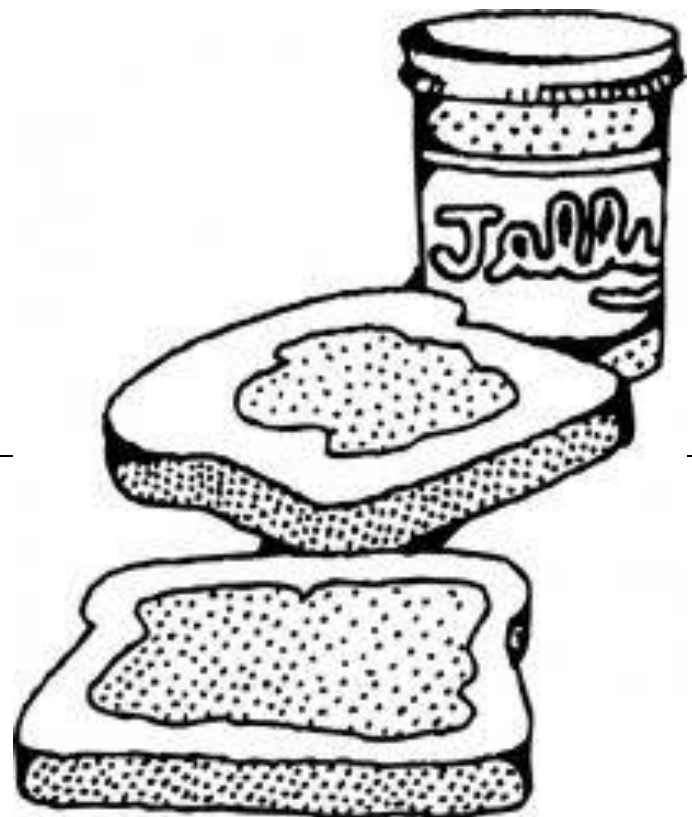
Explain means to make an idea, situation, or problem
_____ to someone by describing it in more
_____ or revealing relevant
_____.

Practice:

EXPLAIN how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich to a small child.

<i>EXPLAIN</i> Action Steps		Important details and information
1.	Know your audience.	What do you know about your audience? How will this information affect how and what you tell them?
2.	Focus on details and why they are important.	Write the steps involved in making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Be sure to include specific details and explain why those details are important.

<p>3.</p>	<p>Compare new concepts with ones that are familiar.</p>	<p>What can you compare this experience to that a small child would understand? Perhaps make a comparison during ONE step of this process.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Confirm that your explanation makes sense.</p>	<p>How would you be sure the small child understands?</p>



What's a 'Musher'?

Read the selection below and answer the questions.

It doesn't matter whether the person is a lawyer, a dentist, a fisherman or a teacher. Any one of these people can be a musher. What's a musher? It's a hardworking, dedicated competitor who is the only human among a team of dogs.

The Iditarod race is the "super bowl" of dogsled racing, and there are some very tough rules as to who can compete. In order for a team to register for the race, the driver has had to finish at least two approved races that total at least 500 miles. So while some teams might have the title of "rookie," they have a lot of experience in racing dogsleds.

Training

Months before the actual race, mushers start training themselves and their dogs. In July, they hook up their dogs to All-Terrain Vehicles and take them on short runs, up to five miles long. By mid-October, the dogs are up to runs of 10 to 15 miles.

As soon as there is snow on the ground, the dogs are hooked up to sleds, which are much easier for them to pull. The length of the runs has increased to 30 or 40 miles by now. By Christmas, a run of 50 miles is normal!

In January, the first races are held. These races can be anywhere from 200 to 500 miles in length. Most mushers enter a couple of these just for practice—but they wouldn't complain if they got the prize money!

Team Dogs

The musher will have several lead dogs in his pack. They are usually smarter and better at following commands than the other dogs. It doesn't matter which dog is the leader, because the pack will follow whatever dog is in the lead position.

Mushers rotate the leader depending on what the trail conditions are. Some dogs are better on long, flat runs, while others excel in hilly terrain.



Underline the definition of "musher."



1. Explain why participants of the Iditarod must have experience in dogsled racing.
2. Explain why training begins months before the big race.
3. Explain why several dogs may serve as the lead dog.

What's a 'Musher'?

Equipment

The musher stands on the rear part of the runners and holds on to the handlebar. If the musher doesn't wrap a cord around his or her waist, and falls off the sled, the dogs could go on alone. That's the one thing a musher never wants to happen!

Each musher has to have certain equipment with him or her when they start the race. A heavy sleeping bag is a must. Each musher must also have an ax, snowshoes, an arctic parka, food for themselves, dog food and two sets of booties for each dog's feet. The booties protect the dogs from various snow related injuries. They must also carry an alcohol stove and a pot to melt snow.

With temperatures ranging from 60 degrees below zero to 40 degrees above zero Fahrenheit, most mushers take warm clothes for themselves as well as medicine for the dogs. They also pack spare lines and snaps, sewing kits and tools. Plenty of drinking water is a must since dehydration can be a problem in the dry, cold climate of Alaska. In recent years, many of the mushers have taken cameras, radios or compact disc players to help with the boredom along the long stretches of the trail.

Each musher has one thing in mind at the start of the Iditarod: To finish the race. It would be great to win, but just finishing makes them all winners.



4. Explain what equipment is needed and why.

5. Explain the author's purpose of this reading selection. How do you know?



North Carolina Testing Program EOG Reading Sample Items Published April 2008.

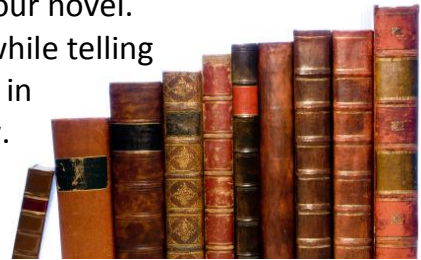
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Synonyms

Explain 🐾 Give details 🐾 Make clear 🐾 Clarify 🐾
Put in plain words 🐾 Tell 🐾 Justify 🐾 Give reasons for

Writing Prompts using the skill **EXPLAIN**

1. Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed or expressed in the text.
2. Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.
3. Tone is the mood or feeling the author intends the reader to experience. Using a specific piece of literature, explain how tone enhances the work.
4. Explain how the novel you are reading could influence someone your age.
5. A struggle between two or more opposing forces in a work is called conflict. Choose a piece of literature you have read and explain the conflict(s).
6. The setting of a novel is when and where the action takes place. Explain how the setting complements the story in a novel you have read.
7. Describe a character from your text that you would trade places with, and explain why.
8. Explain the most important lesson you have learned from your novel.
9. Flashback is a technique whereby past events are recalled while telling a story in the present. Discuss this technique as it was used in your text and tell why this was the best way to tell the story.



Beyond Text

10. Attach a small photograph of something important to you and explain its significance.
11. If you were given the opportunity to spend one year in service on behalf of others, which area would you choose? Explain what you would do and why.
12. Explain how your experiences as a young person significantly differ from those of your friends. Include comparisons.
13. If you could invent something, what would it be, and why?
14. In an essay, explain how disappointments can have a good side.
15. Write an essay explaining why someone you care about is important to you.
16. "Dress for success" is a phrase all of us have heard before, but it means something different to each person. Write an essay explaining what "dress for success" means to you.
17. Write an essay to explain why honesty is important in a friendship.
18. Write an essay explaining how you changed when you entered middle school.
19. The amount of graffiti has greatly increased at your school. The members of the school board must find ways to stop the graffiti. Write a speech to the school board in which you fully explain the solution the school board could use to solve this problem.
20. A role model is a person you look up to. Before you begin writing, think about someone you look up to. Why do you admire this person? Write an essay in which you explain to your classmates whom you admire and why you admire this person.

