Field Trip Writing

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Informative writing **explains** or **teaches** with facts. Start with a **topic sentence**, give **three details**, and finish with a **closing sentence**.

Linking words: *First ... Next ... Also ... Finally ...*



1. Pack it or leave it?

Your class is going to the zoo. Should you **pack** it or **leave** it at home?

1	A water bottle	pack	leave
2	Your video game	pack	leave
3	A packed lunch	pack	leave
4	Your pet hamster	pack	leave
5	A hat or jacket for the weather	pack	leave
6	A big box of toys	pack	leave

2. Topic and closing sentences

Circle the best sentence.

1. Which is the best topic sentence?

(a) Getting ready for a field trip to the zoo takes a few easy steps.
(b) Giraffes have long necks.
(c) I ate a sandwich.

2. Which is the best closing sentence?

(a) The bus is yellow.
(b) Lions sleep a lot.
(c) If you plan ahead, your zoo trip will be safe and fun.

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3. Plan your paragraph

Your class is going on a field trip to the zoo. Explain to a new student how to get ready and what to do on the day. Plan first. Write short notes.

Topic sentence: what will you explain?

Detail 1

Detail 2

Detail 3

Closing sentence

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4. Write your paragraph

Use your plan. Indent the first line.

Prompt: Your class is going on a field trip to the zoo. Explain to a new student how to get ready and what to do on the day.

Check: ☐ Topic sentence ☐ Three facts or details ☐ Linking words (first, also, finally) ☐ Closing sentence ☐ Capitals and periods

Answer Key

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1. Pack it or leave it?

1	A water bottle	**pack**	leave
2	Your video game	pack	**leave**
3	A packed lunch	**pack**	leave
4	Your pet hamster	pack	**leave**
5	A hat or jacket for the weather	**pack**	leave
6	A big box of toys	pack	**leave**

2. Topic and closing sentences

1. Which is the best topic sentence?

- **a. Getting ready for a field trip to the zoo takes a few easy steps.**
- b. Giraffes have long necks.
- c. I ate a sandwich.

2. Which is the best closing sentence?

- a. The bus is yellow.
- b. Lions sleep a lot.
- **c. If you plan ahead, your zoo trip will be safe and fun.**

3. Plan your paragraph

Sample notes. Answers will vary.

Topic sentence: what will you explain?

how to get ready for a zoo field trip

Detail 1

before: bring back the signed permission form

Detail 2

pack: lunch, water bottle, hat or jacket

Detail 3

on the trip: stay with your group and listen to the teacher

Closing sentence

plan ahead = safe and fun trip

Model Answer

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4. Write your paragraph

A model answer to share with students. Their writing will be different.

Getting ready for a field trip to the zoo takes a few easy steps. First, take the permission form home and bring it back signed, or you cannot go. Next, pack a lunch, a water bottle and a hat or jacket for the weather. Leave toys and games at home so nothing gets lost. Finally, on the day of the trip, stay with your group and listen to your teacher. If you plan ahead, your zoo trip will be safe and fun.