Special Place 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. See, hear or smell?

These details describe a campsite. Circle the sense each one uses.

1	tall green pine trees	see	hear	smell
2	birds chirping in the morning	see	hear	smell
3	smoke from the campfire	see	hear	smell
4	a sparkling blue lake	see	hear	smell
5	frogs croaking at night	see	hear	smell
6	fresh pine needles	see	hear	smell

2. Topic and closing sentences

Circle the best sentence.

1. Which is the best topic sentence?

(a) My special place is the campsite by the lake where my family camps every summer.
(b) Tents have zippers.
(c) I like the colour blue.

2. Which is the best closing sentence?

(a) Frogs are green.
(b) The campsite is special because it is where my family slows down and has fun together.
(c) First, set up the tent.

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3. Plan your paragraph

Think of a place that is special to you, such as a park, a grandparent's home or a campsite. Describe it using your senses and explain why it is special. 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: Think of a place that is special to you, such as a park, a grandparent's home or a campsite. Describe it using your senses and explain why it is special.

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

Answer Key

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1. See, hear or smell?

1	tall green pine trees	**see**	hear	smell
2	birds chirping in the morning	see	**hear**	smell
3	smoke from the campfire	see	hear	**smell**
4	a sparkling blue lake	**see**	hear	smell
5	frogs croaking at night	see	**hear**	smell
6	fresh pine needles	see	hear	**smell**

2. Topic and closing sentences

1. Which is the best topic sentence?

- **a** **My special place is the campsite by the lake where my family camps every summer.**
- b Tents have zippers.
- c I like the colour blue.

2. Which is the best closing sentence?

- a Frogs are green.
- **b** **The campsite is special because it is where my family slows down and has fun together.**
- c First, set up the tent.

3. Plan your paragraph

Sample notes. Answers will vary.

Topic sentence: what will you explain?

my special place: the campsite by the lake

Detail 1

see: tall pines, sparkling lake, our blue tent

Detail 2

hear and smell: frogs at night, campfire smoke

Detail 3

why special: no screens, family time, roasting marshmallows

Closing sentence

special because my family slows down and has fun

Model Answer

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4. Write your paragraph

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

My special place is the campsite by the lake where my family camps every summer. When I get there, I see tall pine trees, a sparkling blue lake and our blue tent. At night, I hear frogs croaking, and I smell smoke from the campfire. We leave our screens at home, so we play cards, swim and roast marshmallows together. The campsite is special because it is where my family slows down and has fun together.