

## Next Generation Standards for the Informative Writing Unit

5W2: Write informative/explanatory texts to explore a topic and convey ideas and information relevant to the subject.

5W2a: Introduce a topic clearly, provide a general focus, and organize related information logically.

5W2b: Develop a topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other relevant information; include text features, illustrations, and multimedia to aid comprehension.

5W2c: Use precise language and content-specific vocabulary to explain a topic.

5W2d: Use appropriate transitional/linking words, phrases, and clauses to clarify and connect ideas and concepts.

5W2e: Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.

5W2f: Establish a style aligned to a subject area or task.

## Lesson 7 - Planning your subheadings and sub-subheadings

I can plan my sections by thinking about different ways the subtopics can be divided into parts (or sub-sections) and expanded.

How will my learning be assessed today?

- my ability to break apart a subtopic into multiple smaller sections
- my ability to check if each part has several facts to share

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## Connection

Let's think about how these items fit on a trip I am taking to Africa! (a wish)

As I pack, I think to myself, do these items fit with the trip I am taking? Do I have enough of each type of item?



I may not just want binoculars. What else could I add that goes along with site seeing?



Do these belong? What else might I need that relates to one of these?



Authors go through the same thought process. They look over everything they are planning to put into a section and think “does this fit with the journey I’m taking my readers on? Am I giving enough information for each part of my writing?”

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Teach: Subheadings help you organize your writing. They help the reader know at a glance what each part of your article will be about. And subheadings are a great tool for organizing the material as you gather it. Let's imagine you are writing a feature article about hurricanes in light of what recently occurred down South. You are going to dig up a lot of information and you need to figure out a logical way to get it across to the reader. What might be the important parts?

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## Where do hurricanes strike?

- What can you do ahead of time to prepare?
- How can you save yourself?
- What causes hurricanes?
- When do they tend to occur?
- What is a hurricane anyway?



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As you write your article each one of these could be a sub heading followed by a paragraph to explain the idea to your reader. They are out of order, what might be a better way to organize them? What should go first?

So when using sub-headings for your feature you should:

1. Figure out your different categories/sub headings.
2. Figure out what information/quotes/ observations belong in each one.
3. See where you need to add a new subheading to fill in a missing gap.
4. Decide what order they belong in.

Independent: Try this for your feature article. Try to have at least two or three subheadings and try to decide what information/quotes/observations belong there. Work on sub headings and adding information, quotes and observations to your piece.

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Model

## ANOTHER WAY TO THINK ABOUT IT

### Topic: English Bulldogs

#### Subtopics:

- Physical Description
- ★ - Special Care
- Having a Bulldog as a Pet
- Pros and Cons of Owning a Bulldog
- History of English Bulldogs

I already have 5 subtopics that are part of a larger topic. Let's take a look at my facts for each subtopic and see if it can be broken down further. I will put a star near the subtopic I need to divide into parts.

### Special Care

← click here

#### Facts

- must be brushed
- walking them
- short coat
- foods they eat
- eating once per day
- chasing and catching practice
- commands when playing with them
- read dog food labels for good ingredients
- brush them 3-4 times a week
- keep away from long name ingredients like "propylene glycol"

#### -health problems:

heat stroke: getting hot and panting

How to care for them? dont let them play in the heat for long

Cherry eye: red swollen gland in eye

-take them right to the vet

Hip dysplasia: hip isnt fitting in joing

- no stairs and use a low dish

← click here

#### NEW LIST:

#### Subtopics:

- Physical Description
- ★ Special Care
- ★ Health Issues
- Having a Bulldog as a Pet
- Pros and Cons of Owning a Bulldog
- History of English Bulldogs

Let's check to make sure there isn't overlap here. Are these two subtopics different? We can check once more to make sure they will have different facts.

Do I have enough information in each subtopic to engage my readers or should I 'pack in' more?

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Guided

## Special Care

- must be brushed

- walking them

-short coat

- foods they eat

-eating once per day

-chasing and catching practice

-commands when playing with them

-read dog food labels for good ingredients

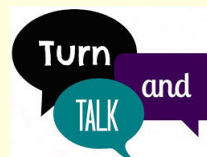
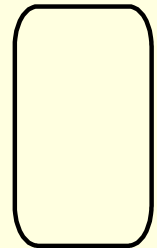
- brush them 3-4 times a week

- keep away from long name ingredients like "propylene glycol"

- brush their teeth and clip their nails

Now, I know parts of the subtopic "Special Care" can grouped into related paragraphs. Let me see which **facts** should be grouped together to make 1-3 paragraphs. First, watch me!

Teachers:



This is a fact...

1) Which sub-section does it belong in?

2) What other facts can be grouped together?

3) Why are we grouping related facts together?

This is a fact.



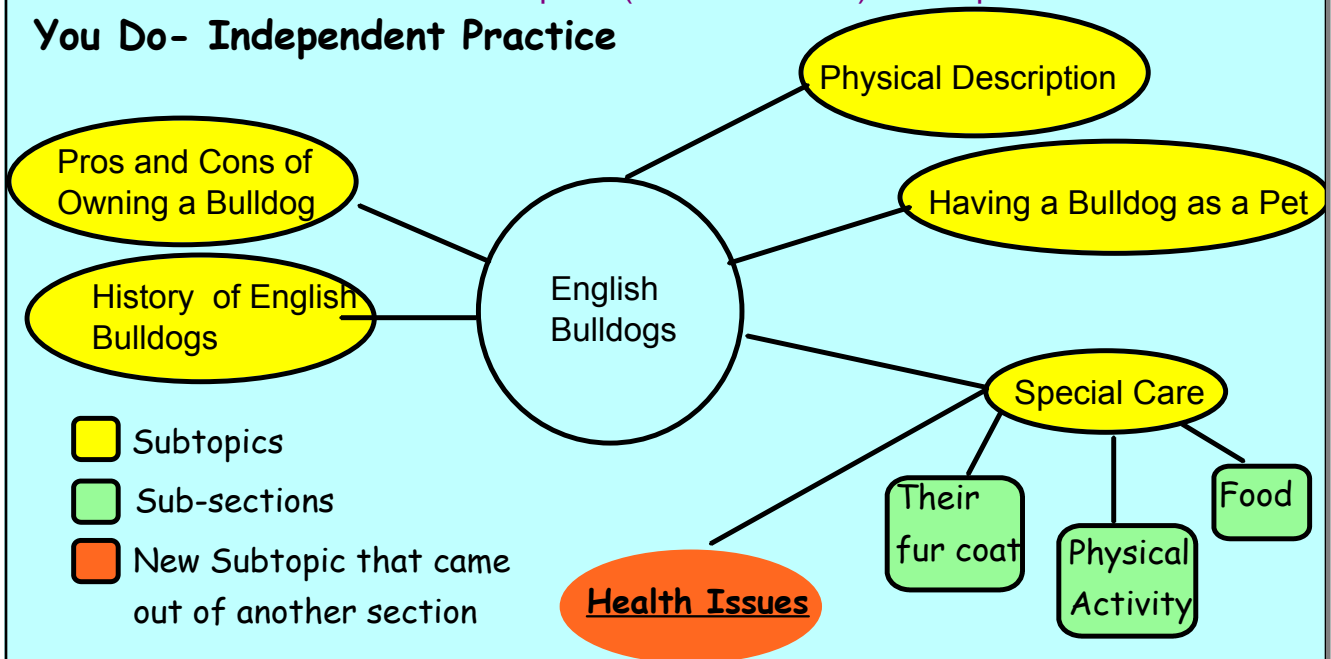
Am I giving enough information for my readers to be engaged in this topic? Why might I choose not to include this fact in my writing? If I really wanted to keep it, what would I have to do?

**Mid workshop:** Remember: Each sub-subtopic needs to have enough facts to share. You can either stretch it by adding more details or say you have enough of other supporting details and eliminate it. It's just like the example of packing for a trip, if you don't have enough for the type of trip you are going on then you may not be prepared.



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## You Do- Independent Practice



### Task:

1) Look over the research/facts you have for each Subtopic. Circle the facts that may fall under a new subtopic.

2) As you carefully look over all your facts with a fine tooth comb, color code the facts that should be grouped together in each subtopic. These will be your sub-sections (the paragraphs within each subtopic)

3) As you read each fact ask yourself, does this topic have enough facts to go with it? If so, color code it to wherever it fits best. If not....

4) Pack in more facts in wherever you need OR eliminate the ones that are just not fitting!

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SHARE

Explain which subtopic you made into 2 subtopics. Where did you group related information to create sub-subtopics?