

Expository Paragraph Sample Process

EXPOSITORY - "Explains" Speaking about a topic. Defining terms, explaining processes, giving reasons or examples, "teaching".

Prompt: Write a paragraph explaining the importance of being able to see a situation from another person's point of view.

Analyzed Prompt: Write a paragraph **explaining** the importance of being able to see a situation from another person's point of view.

Answers Outline:

OS: important, situation, different POV, resignation of Gen. Mattis

D#1: my concern, Gen. Mattis gave hope, now no hope
EX:

D#2: others glad, Mattis a hero, resignation speaks message
EX:

D#3: Gen. Mattis' point of view: compromise not possible
EX:

CS: more than one POV to an issue; important to see more than my side to understand fully

BRAINSTORM - create web of ideas, connect "bubbles" in helpful ways

Fill in outline with Details: (see next page)

OS: important, situation, different POV, resignation of Gen. Mattis as seen in news headlines online.

D#1: my concern, Gen. Mattis gave hope, now no hope

EX: General Mattis is a wise, experienced lifetime leader in US Forces and ex-Marine, and former NATO commander. Without his leadership, as he steps down, who will be able to lead so wisely?

D#2: others (son) glad, Mattis a hero, resignation speaks message

EX: Gen. Mattis has written a book explaining his ideas on leadership, plus the fact that he refuses to bad-mouth a sitting Commander-in-Chief models the way we should all support our country. *Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead* by Jim Mattis and Bing West (Random House, 2019)

D#3: Gen. Mattis' point of view: compromise not possible

EX: By staying, he was compromising the very leadership qualities he prized and stood the possibility of creating tension and disunity where unity was most important. (See his book, and also article "The Man Who Couldn't Take it Anymore" by Jeffrey Goldberg, August 29, 2019, *The Atlantic* online)

CS: more than one POV to an issue; important to see more than my side to understand fully

Create Sentence Outline or Write Draft: (remember the "hook" in the introduction, and "takeaway" in the conclusion)

Recently, news headlines announced that U.S. Secretary of Defense, James Mattis, a retired four-star Marine general, resigned his post. To me, it was devastating news but I soon learned that it is important to gain the point of view of others in order to better understand the situation at hand. My concern was that without having such a wise and able leader, who would be able to lead in his place? I felt that his resignation was not just quitting his post, but giving up on America as well. My son, however, felt differently. He felt that former Secretary Mattis had made an excellent decision because now his book, *Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead* (Random House; 2019), would say all that he needed to say but couldn't while in office. In the book, Mattis refuses to speak negatively about his current Commander-in-Chief, modeling the message of unity and strong alliances he hopes our nation will recover to be strong in the world. Finally, Jim Mattis, himself, has his own point of view to consider. By staying, he was compromising the very leadership qualities he prized and stood the possibility of creating tension and disunity where unity was most important. After reading several articles on Mattis' resignation, including "The Man Who Couldn't Take It Anymore," by Jeffrey Goldberg (Aug 19, 2019, *The Atlantic*), I realized how important it is to gain more than one point of view about a situation. I must see more than my own point of view in order to understand any situation accurately and fully.