



Advanced | Exemplar Essay

Electricity

Different Concepts of Energy



Claim and Focus

The essay makes a clear, arguable claim about the purpose, effectiveness, and message of the texts (“[The sources] all make good use of explanations, examples, and descriptions to fulfill their purposes of explaining electricity in different ways”). The writing stays focused throughout and thoroughly addresses the demands of the prompt.



Analysis and Evidence

Valid and appropriate evidence is cited and explained, helping the reader to better understand how each text connects to the topic of electricity (“The first article, ‘Energy Story,’ talks about electricity as a whole”). Comparisons among the sources help the reader understand the message of the texts (“‘Conducting Solutions’ is more similar to ‘Energy Story’ than ‘Short Circuit’”).



Organization

The essay includes an explanatory introductory paragraph, as well as a summative concluding statement (“All of these articles contain useful information about energy and make it easier for the reader to understand in their own way”). A clear organizational structure and well-integrated transitions (“in addition,” “however,” and “furthermore”) help to enhance the analysis.



Language and Style

While an established, formal style is maintained throughout, the writing is infused with a unique voice to engage the reader (“This article is a fan of descriptions and explanations” and “helpful for a student on the go”). Precise language addresses the complexity of the topic. Few errors are present, and they do not interfere with meaning (“...solutions that form very few ions can produce more if their mixed...”).



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait ‘looks like’ in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see “25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays” by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

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Different Concepts of Energy

Sources can be similar in many ways. They could have the same topic, same writing style, or even the same goal. The three articles "Energy Story," "Short Circuit" and "Conducting Solutions" all make good use of explanations, examples, and descriptions to fulfill their purposes of explaining electricity in different ways.

The first article, "Energy Story," talks about electricity as a whole. It even tells you the questions it ultimately answers: "What is electricity? Where does it come from? How does it work?" ("Energy Story"). This article is a fan of descriptions and explanations because a majority of the paragraphs in the article are just descriptions of atom structure and charges and how it results in electricity, followed by how electricity is conducted. The author uses examples to demonstrate information such as comparing electricity to "the firefighter's bucket brigades in olden times. But instead of passing one bucket from the start of the line of people to the other end, each person would have a bucket of water to pour from one bucket to another" ("Energy Story"). The reader understands with this example that this information demonstrates the basic meaning of electricity and how it moves from one place to another.

The article "Short Circuit" explains what happens when you blow a fuse and uses a picture and directions to talk about the experiment. In the experiment, it attached one end of a clip to one of the battery terminals, one end of the wire to the other terminal, and the other end of the clip to the other end of the iron wire. The experiment that is explained is a strategy to inform readers about short circuits and how a current goes a different way on the wire than expected. In addition to the first article, this article uses information also, but now to explain what a short circuit is. Descriptions and examples

were used here to show how and when a short circuit occurs. This article was mainly based on the information from the experiment used to describe electricity better.

"Conducting Solutions" is more similar to "Energy Story" than "Short Circuit".

Like "Energy Story" it is an informational article, and doesn't contain any hands on demonstrations of science, but it does explain some basic concepts of atom structure. It's also much shorter and shares the information at a faster pace, which is helpful for a student on the go. The article's first new piece of information is that some materials made of molecules create solutions without ions and some do. However, solutions that form very few ions can produce more if their mixed with another solution that produces very few ions. "Conducting Solutions" provides a good understanding of mixtures and the roles ions play in substances that are able to conduct electricity.

All of these articles contain useful information about energy and make it easier for the reader to understand in their own ways. Furthermore, they use specific details and connect info to everyday life so that the reader can better understand the text. By using these different methods of explaining electricity, the reader has multiple ways to understand the concept of it, how it works, and etc. All three articles use explanations, examples, and descriptions to fulfill their purposes of explaining electricity in different ways.