

OPINION WRITING

STEPS FOR SUCCESS:

1. Read the texts and prompt.

2. Brainstorm your ideas and pick your SIDE!

3. Introduction Paragraph

4. Body Paragraph

5. Conclusion Paragraph

THE FORMULA:

Introduction information
Focus statement

← **INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH**

Reason #1
Evidence from text 1
Evidence from text 2
Explain how your reason is supported by the evidence

Reason #2
Evidence from text 1
Evidence from text 2
Explain how your reason is supported by the evidence

Reason #3
Evidence from text 1
Evidence from text 2
Explain how your reason is supported by the evidence

Summarize the missions
Summarize why they were mostly successes or failures
Real-world connection for readers

← **CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH**

← **BODY PARAGRAPH**

*If you choose, you may make each Reason-Evidence-Explanation its own paragraph. You would have a total of 5 paragraphs.

THE PROMPT

You have just read two passages about explorations. Write an opinion essay that explains why the Endurance expedition and the Apollo 13 mission were mostly successes or mostly failures. Use textual evidence from both passages in your essay.

STEP 1: BRAINSTORM AND PICK A SIDE

- Do you think the Endurance expedition and the Apollo 13 mission were mostly successes or failures?
- What makes them successes or failures?
This is how you brainstorm the content for your essay!

STEP 2: INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH

- Sentence 1 – Catch your reader's attention. Make a statement or ask a question about important missions/expeditions.
- Sentence 2 – BRIEFLY describe the Endurance Expedition and the Apollo 13 mission
- Sentence 3 – FOCUS STATEMENT: State your opinion without giving your reasons and evidence

INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE

Have you ever had a plan that didn't necessarily go the way you thought it would? Several historical expeditions, like the Endurance Expedition and the Apollo 13 mission, did not go according to plan. Although these two missions were not completed as they were planned, the expeditions were mostly successes for several reasons.

STEP 3: BODY PARAGRAPH

You should have THREE of these: (Reason, evidence, connection)

1. Transition word
2. Reason the missions were successes/failures
3. Evidence from BOTH texts to support your reason. *You can paraphrase, too!
4. Explain how your evidence connects to your reason

BODY PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE

First, the Endurance Expedition and the Apollo 13 mission were mostly successes because the individuals involved did not give up in pursuit of their missions. In Passage 1 "Endurance", it states, "A third ship finally made it to Elephant Island, rescuing the crew almost two years after they had left London." Similarly, the passage "Apollo 13" describes how the astronauts had to move to a different part of the ship, and this area of the ship was extremely cold. Also, the astronauts were left without water and were unable to sleep. In both missions, the crew faced terrible obstacles, but they overcame them by not giving up.

STEP 4: CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH

1. Summarize the missions
2. Summarize your reasons why the missions were mostly successes or failures
3. Connect your writing to a real-world experience for readers to establish a personal connection to your writing

CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE

In the Endurance expedition, the crew was lost and stranded for nearly two years. During the Apollo 13 mission, the crew had to relocate to a different part of the ship and survive on minimal resources. All in all, despite these monumental challenges, the Endurance expedition and the Apollo 13 mission were successes for their persistence, clever use of resources, and helping one another survive. Even if plans and missions aren't accomplished like they were originally designed, there are still successes to be celebrated.