

# Explanatory Writing

## How to Eat Pizza

### Objectives & Common Core Connections

- \* Introduce the topic for a selected audience.
- \* Focus on the purpose of explanatory writing.
- \* List the steps.
- \* Organize the steps in a logical order.
- \* Use linking words to connect ideas.
- \* Write an explanatory paragraph.

**Introduction** Provide each student with a copy of the writing frame (page 36). Have students read the title and first line and study the illustrations. Tell them that they will write a paragraph explaining to classmates how to eat a slice of pizza.

**Model** Help students begin their explanation by writing an introductory sentence that would be appropriate for fourth graders. For example:

- It takes skill to eat pizza.

Point out that when explaining how to make or do something, the writer needs to list the steps. For example:

- fold it lengthwise
- put pointed end in mouth
- quickly slurp up filling that oozes out
- wait for it to cool
- take bite

You might say: *I need to organize the steps in a logical way so that readers can follow them.* Coach students in developing complete sentences. Model how some ideas can be connected with linking words, such as *and*, *also*, or *another*. For example:

- Wait for the pizza to cool.
- Then, fold a slice lengthwise.
- Put the pointed end in your mouth and take a bite.
- Quickly slurp up any topping that oozes out.

**Guided Practice** Have students complete the writing frame. Encourage them to use their own ideas about eating pizza, as well as their own wording and sentence structure.

**Review** Invite volunteers to read their finished paragraphs to the class. Have listeners use items 1, 2, 5–7, 9, and 12 on the assessment checklist (page 63) to evaluate the effectiveness of other students' work.

**Independent Practice** Use the On Your Own activity (page 37) as homework or review. Encourage students to use what they learned in the lesson to complete the assignment. Tell them they can choose a food from the Idea Box or use their own idea.

# How to Eat Pizza

How do you eat a slice of pizza?

- Introduce the topic with your audience in mind.
- Focus on your writing purpose.
- List the steps.
- Organize the steps in a logical order.
- Use linking words to connect ideas.
- Write a paragraph on another sheet of paper to explain how to eat pizza.



Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Audience \_\_\_\_\_

Writing Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

Steps \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Steps in Order \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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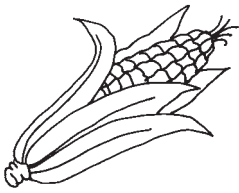
Possible Linking Words \_\_\_\_\_

# On Your Own

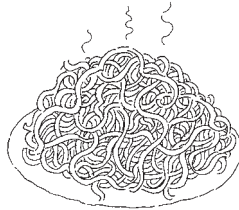
Choose a food from the Idea Box or think of one of your own. Complete this page. Then, write a paragraph on another sheet of paper to explain how to eat the food.



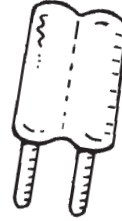
Corn on the Cob



Spaghetti



Ice Pop



My Idea:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Audience \_\_\_\_\_

Writing Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

Steps \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Steps in Order \_\_\_\_\_

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Possible Linking Words \_\_\_\_\_

# Student Assessment Checklist

## Informative/Explanatory Writing

1. Introduced the topic. ....
2. Focused on the writing purpose. ....
3. Summarized or paraphrased information in notes. ....
4. Developed topic using researched facts, examples, and/or details. ....
5. Organized the information to help the reader. ....
6. Used linking words to connect ideas. ....
7. Listed materials and steps. ....
8. Included an illustration to aid comprehension. ....
9. Addressed the audience appropriately. ....
10. Used subject-specific words and precise language. ....
11. Provided a concluding sentence. ....
12. Wrote an informative/explanatory paragraph. ....

★ ★  
**More Things  
to Check**  
★

- Capitalized proper nouns.
- Capitalized the first word of sentences.
- Used correct punctuation.
- Spelled words correctly.
- Followed correct paragraph form.