



# Ready Writing Concepts

**Level:** Elementary - Middle School

... an exploration of expository writing

## READY WRITING CONCEPTS FOR LOWER GRADES

... an exploration of expository writing

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*We are a small company that listens! If you have any questions or if there is an area that you would like fully explored, let us hear from you. We hope you enjoy this product and stay in contact with us throughout your academic journey.*

~ President Hexco Inc., Linda Tarrant

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## Excellent Essay

*The following is an adaptation of the essay that won with this topic. Comments have been interspersed within this essay in bold text. Consider outlining this essay.*

### **The Lost Sport**

It was during the early 1920s that he came along, the greatest ball player of all time. He was an athlete like the world had never seen, swatting homeruns, pitching shutouts, and fielding grounders. Babe Ruth was in a league of his own. Never before had the world seen a player who could do everything, but then came along The Sultan of Swat. He was everything America loved—mighty, tenacious, yet always cheerful with his fans. The self-proclaimed "Oversized Green Pea" gained immortality in the hearts of all Americans and his legacy is still carried on today. **[This is a great "hook." The writer has drawn the reader in with a build-up that reveals Ruth's identity and descriptive vocabulary that brings baseball to life.]** Yet more amazing than his sixty homerun season, the night he struck out fifteen batters straight, or his 715 career homeruns is that he did all this without cursing in public, committing crime, or trying to strangle his coach. The Babe put sportsmanship at the top of his priority list, always offering advice to teammates and opponents. Plus, he was gracious to kids wanting hugs or autographs.

Despite Ruth's dedication to sportsmanship, a major change could be heard in the distance. It was coming, inevitable and unavoidable. Maybe the breakdown of sportsmanship began in 1919, when the Chicago White Sox committed their deep sin. After advancing in the American League Championship Series, they seemed poised to make quick work of the Cincinnati Reds in the World Series. With a strong team that included "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, the Sox had already begun making room for another World Series Pennant. Then the shameful

## Troubleshooting Q&A

### ***What if I don't understand either of the topics?***

Don't panic. The topics would not have been chosen if they were only comprehensible to winners of the Pulitzer Prize in Physics. Reread each topic more slowly. Usually, one will intuitively feel like the one you should choose. Go back to that one and read each sentence slowly without trying to think about what your thesis will be. Instead, focus on what the author or speaker is saying. You have two hours, so don't start by feeling rushed and panicky. Once you start to get the idea, read the topic, but read the sentences in a different order, maybe even in reverse order. This will help you "hear" each statement better. Now, go back and read through the topic, and you are probably getting a handle on it. You are ready to brainstorm your thesis and support statements.

### ***What if I have no idea what to write about?***

Okay, so you understand the topics, but that isn't helping get the juices flowing. It's writer's block, and it happens to great literary minds. You're in good company. Again, remember that you have two hours, so start off by relaxing. Get a handle on the topic and then think about how it might possibly fit into your frame of reference. Often, the less obvious approach is the most interesting. For example, imagine that you have no interest in or knowledge of sports, but the other topic is the socio-political ramifications of Zoushukistan's entry into the gruel market. Sports it is. There are lots of ways to write about sports besides rattling off batting averages and fly-fishing stances. Find how the topic is relevant to you, and