



## Informative Report

Dear Parents,

In the next few weeks the class will craft informative reports. Students will learn how to: open it with an engaging topic sentence; immediately grab the reader's attention; and develop the topic with well-researched facts, clear definitions, and vivid details. The reports will include illustrations and use a blend of simple and compound sentences. Students will wrap up their reports with a restatement of the topic, leaving a lasting impression on the reader's mind. Report writing helps third graders develop valuable research skills, expands their knowledge in that area, and teaches important organizational skills for writing in other genres.

### **Ideas for Home Support**

As your child practices writing these informative reports at school you might consider practicing at home with the following ideas:

- Encourage your child to explore their interests and passions, such as animals, historical events, famous figures, or scientific concepts and research information on those topics.
- Take a trip to the local library and assist your child in finding books, encyclopedias, or other resources related to their chosen topic. Teach them how to navigate the library catalog and locate information effectively.
- Use child-friendly search engines or educational websites to conduct online research on the chosen topic. Supervise your child's internet usage and guide them in evaluating the credibility of online sources.
- Regularly discuss topics that are of high interest with your child to foster interest in varied areas. Research those topics together to build knowledge and foster curiosity.

Thank you for all your support!

Sincerely,

## Informative Report Rubric

### 3rd Grade

Genre Chart Informative: Report	4 Exceeded Goal	3 Accomplished Goal	2 Just Beginning	1 Hasn't Started
<b>Has an engaging topic sentence</b>	Engages the reader in a creative way and makes the topic clear	Engages the reader and makes the topic clear	Engaging sentence is weak or off-topic	Does not engage the reader
<b>Develops details for the topic with facts and definitions</b>	Creatively develops the topic, including facts and definitions	Develops that topic with facts and definitions	Partially develops topic with a few facts	No development of the topic
<b>Includes an illustration</b>	Uses a well-placed illustration that adds to the details	Uses an illustration that adds details	Uses an illustration but it does not add to the details	No illustration used
<b>Uses simple and compound sentences</b>	Uses several combinations of simple and compound sentences	Uses simple and compound sentences	Uses only simple or compound sentences	Uses simple sentences
<b>Ends with a restatement of the topic</b>	Ending sentence is creative and restates the topic	Ending sentence restates the topic	Has an ending sentence, but does not restate the topic	No ending statement
<b>Correct conventions support the meaning</b>	No errors or minor errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar	A few errors but they do not interfere with meaning	Frequent errors that distract the reader	So many errors that it is hard to read

# List of Holidays and Celebrations

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Chinese New Year
- Black History Month
- Valentine's Day
- Presidents Day
- Women's History Month
- Mardi Gras
- St. Patrick's Day
- Holi
- Easter
- Earth Day
- Cinco de Mayo
- Mother's Day
- Memorial Day
- Ramadan
- Flag Day
- Father's Day
- Juneteenth
- July 4th
- Labor Day
- Halloween
- Diwali
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving
- Hanukkah
- Christmas
- Kwanzaa

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Informative Report Research Guide

**Topic:**

### **History of the Holiday**

When is this holiday?

Who started celebrating it?

When was it started?

How do people celebrate it?

### **Significance**

Details about why is the holiday important:

1.

2.

3.

### **Source Information**

Book title and author:

Website URL:

Title and author of articles used:

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## Informative Report Research Guide Model

<b>Topic: Memorial Day</b>
<b>History of the Holiday</b>
When is this holiday? This holiday is on the last Monday in May.
Who started celebrating it? People who wanted to honor soldiers who had died
When was it started? It was first called Decoration Day on May 5, 1866.
How do people celebrate it? Decorate graves, have parades, remember soldiers, go to a place of worship, celebrate the beginning of summer, have picnics
<b>Significance</b>
Details about why is the holiday important:
1. Decoration Day started May 5th, 1866 and was renamed Memorial Day in 1882.
2. President Nixon declared it a national holiday in 1971.
3. We remember people who have died.
<b>Source Information</b>
Book title and author: <u>Memorial Day</u> by Robin Nelson
Website URL: <a href="https://www.asomf.org/the-history-of-memorial-day/">https://www.asomf.org/the-history-of-memorial-day/</a> U.S. Army Airbourne and Special Operations Museum: History of Memorial Day
Title and author of articles used:

## Engaging Introduction Practice

Have you ever thought about those cool birds that fly around at night? They're called owls! This report is all about them. We'll learn about what they look like, how they act, where they live, and how they're special. Let's explore the world of owls together!

1. Engaging Strategy: \_\_\_\_\_ (underline it in red)
    - 1a. Circle the topic in green.
  2. Underline the details to be learned in green.
  3. Underline the transitional or set up statement in red.
- 

Hoo-hoo! Can you hear that? It's the sound of an owl calling out in the night! In this report, we're going to learn all about these amazing birds called owls. We'll find out what they look like, where they live, and what makes them special. So, let's spread our wings and soar into the fascinating world of owls together!

1. Engaging Strategy: \_\_\_\_\_ (underline it in red)
  - 1a. Circle the topic in green.
2. Underline the details to be learned in green.
3. Underline the transitional or set up statement in red.

## Engaging Introduction Examples

### Question

**Why celebrate Memorial Day? What is the reason behind the holiday?** A long time ago, the United States had a Civil War. Many soldiers died in that war so communities began to set aside one day a year to honor all those who were lost in battle. This celebration eventually became known as Memorial Day.

### Sound Effect

**Bang! Clash! Guns fired. Swords were drawn. How can this be a holiday?** The United States lost many soldiers in the Civil War. As a result, communities began to set aside one day a year to honor all those who were lost in battle. This celebration became Memorial Day.

### Annotations

**Engaging Strategy is in bolded red**

Background information

Transitional statement

# **Informative Report Model Draft**

## **Memorial Day**

Why celebrate Memorial Day? What is the reason behind the holiday? A long time ago the United States had a Civil War. Many soldiers died. Eventually, communities began to set aside one day a year to honor all those who were lost in battles. This celebration became known as Memorial Day.

The history of Memorial Day started over a hundred and fifty years ago. Memorial Day first started in 1862 in the years following the Civil War. General John A. Logan wanted to remember and honor those who had given their lives. He asked that May 30th be a day set aside for all those who died. Memorial Day became a federal holiday. People still celebrate today by decorating soldiers' graves and having parades.

Memorial Day is a very important holiday. Since this is the only day set aside to remember those who have died for our country, it holds special significance for many people. It gives families who have lost loved ones a special time to remember and honor those they have lost. Because it is a Federal Holiday everyone gets the day just to honor these brave people. It is important to remember all the people who have died for our country.

Many say that Memorial Day is the best holiday. It began as a way to honor all those lost in battle and it has never lost its meaning. There are many who lost their lives so that we can enjoy our freedom. It is important to give special honor to all of these people.



# Informative Report Model - Annotated

## Memorial Day

**Why celebrate Memorial Day? What is the reason behind the holiday?** A long time ago, the **United States had a Civil War. Many soldiers died.** Eventually, communities began to **set aside one day a year to honor all those who were lost in battles.** This celebration eventually became **known as Memorial Day.**

**The idea of Memorial Day** ~~started~~ **was created over a hundred and fifty years ago.** ~~Memorial Day~~ It **first started in 1862, in the years following the Civil War. General John A. Logan** wanted to remember and honor those who had given ~~there~~ **their** lives. He asked that **May 30th** be a day set aside for all those who died. **Memorial Day became a fFederal hHoliday. A "fFederal hHoliday" is one that is celebrated in the entire country.** ~~People~~ We still celebrate Memorial Day by **decorating soldiers' graves and having parades.**

Memorial Day is a very important holiday. **\*Since** this is the **only day set aside to remember** those who have died for our country, it **holds special significance for many people.** It gives families who have lost loved ones, a special **time to remember and honor those they have lost.** ~~Because~~ Since it is a Federal Holiday, **everyone gets the day just to honor these brave people.** It **is** important to remember all the people who have died for our country.

**Many say that Memorial Day is the \*best holiday. It began as a way to honor all those lost in battle, and it has never lost its meaning. We can enjoy our freedom because of them. It is important to give special honor to all of these people.**

### Annotations

Uses a strategy to engage the reader is in red

Gives details about the main idea (facts and definitions) is in green

Illustrations (on the second page)

Used simple and compound sentences is in orange

Ends with a restatement of the topic is in red

Convention edits are in black

## Illustrations



Graves at Arlington Cemetery on Memorial Day  
(Photo by Remember, May 26, 2008)



Memorial Day Parade  
(Photo by Remember, May 15, 2012)

# Revision: Informative Report

## 3rd Grade

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Partner \_\_\_\_\_ Rubric Score \_\_\_\_\_

Self

Partner

### Genre Chart

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ **Has an engaging topic sentence**

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ **Develops details of the topic with facts and definitions**

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ **Includes an illustration**

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ **Uses simple and compound sentences**

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ **Ends with a restatement of the topic**

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

## Editing Checklist - Third Grade

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Any item on the checklist without an X will need to be edited before turning in the paper.

Self      Partner

- |       |       |   |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Paper includes name, date, and title                             |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Correct punctuation at the end of each sentence . ? !            |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Correct capitalization (beginning of sentences and proper nouns) |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Paragraph is indented  |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Correct spelling, including No Excuse Words                      |
| _____ | _____ | 6. _____  |

*(Grammar focus for the class)*



## Editing Checklist - Third Grade

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Any item on the checklist without an X will need to be edited before turning in the paper.

Self      Partner

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| _____ | _____ | 5. Correct spelling, including No Excuse Words                      |
| _____ | _____ | 6. _____  |

*(Grammar focus for the class)*

