

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

In her book, *The Writing Revolution* Judith Hochman tells us that students' problems with reading comprehension, as well with writing essays, occur because they have not been taught systematically to write ... to which her book gives a step-by-step guide.

The Writing Development exercises here are adapted from her programme.

The Geography of North America in 1840

2. Fragments and Sentences II

1. All of the provenance captions to Sources B-E are fragments ... except one. Find it.
2. Form half-a-dozen basic Who, What and Where sentences from the information in the opening two paragraphs.

Another vital building block of an expository sentence is: Why?

The simplest way to include the 'why' in a sentence is to add it using the conjunction, 'because':

“The first European settlers stayed in the east BECAUSE they believed that the area in the middle of America was a desert.”

It is a first way to start building more complex sentences.

3. Form these sentence stems into more complex 'Why' sentences by adding the word because and a subordinate clause:

- Early explorers found the Plains a very hostile environment _____.
- The Great Plains were dangerous _____.
- A man could get hopelessly lost _____.
- There was no protection from the wind _____.
- The American West was inaccessible _____.
- It was difficult to build houses _____.
- There was little available drinking water _____.
- It seemed to be unsuitable for animals or crops _____.

4. Use the information in Sources A-E to form four of your own 'Why' sentences in this way – ie simple sentence stem + 'because' + subordinate clause.

- <Sentence stem> because _____.
- <Sentence stem> because _____.
- <Sentence stem> because _____.
- <Sentence stem> because _____.