Start Explaining...

Explanatory text gives an explanation. An example of explanatory text is writing directions about how to do something.

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow the steps provided to write a paragraph that gives an explanation.

1. Choose a topic to explain that does not have too many steps.
2. List the steps.
3. Put the steps in the correct order.
4. Choose a few signal words to help reinforce the order. (First, next, then, finally, etc.)
5. Write a topic sentence that introduces the topic.
6. Now write an introductory sentence to go before the topic sentence, to grab the reader’s attention.
7. Complete your paragraph by adding whatever details are needed in order for a reader to understand each step.
8. Write a summarizing sentence for a conclusion.

Use the organizer on the next page to plan your explanatory paragraph. Then write your paragraph neatly on another sheet of paper.