Definition of Informational Text

A book, an article, or a story about real people or things written to inform, describe, explain, analyze, or persuade.

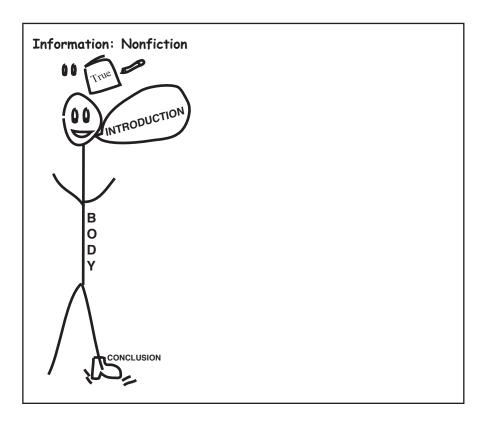
Nonfiction Introduction Information Conclusion

Nonfiction is true information, and it always has the same parts: Introduction, Body, and Conclusion.

Introduction! Hook-in the reader!
Then introduce the Main Idea;
that's what all the Information is about.

Body! This part is filled with details, details, details; that's information all about the Main Idea.

Conclusion! Repeat the Main Idea using different words, and end with a Snap.



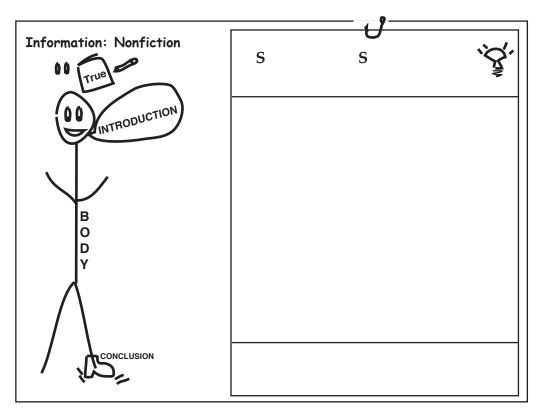
Write "Information: Nonfiction" in the upper left corner.

Chant and motion: *Nonfiction* (open hands like a book) *is true information* (mate a "T" with both hands).

Draw a book and write "True" on it. Draw eyes on the left side of the book, and a pencil on the right.

Chant and motion: Whether reading or writing information, it's always organized with the same parts. *Introduction!* (Open and close both hands next to your mouth.) *Body!* (Touch shoulders, then move hands down the side of the torso, and touch your knees.) *Conclusion!* (Stomp your foot and simultaneously move your hands and arms to make the *safe* motion like an umpire.)

Draw a long stick person. Draw a talking bubble from its mouth with the word "INTRODUCTION" in the bubble. Label "BODY" on its side. Draw a shoe, then label it with the word "CONCLUSION".

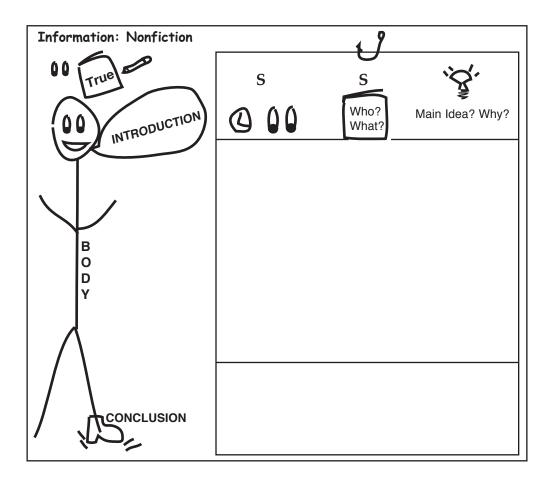


Directions (continued): Draw a big box next to the stick person. Inside the box draw two horizontal lines, one near the top and one near the bottom.

Teacher states: *This is the nonfiction organizer*. We will use this organizer (point to board) to take notes when we read or to organize information when we write nonfiction.

The top section is for the introduction. (Open and close both hands next to your mouth.) The middle is for the body! (Touch shoulders, then move hands down the side of the torso, and touch your knees.) The bottom section is for the conclusion! (Stomp your foot and simultaneously move your hands and arms to make the safe motion like an umpire.) Go to the top of the organizer for the introduction. Let's find out what makes an introduction.

Chant and motion: *Hook in the reader!* (Hold two fists together and pretend to throw a fishing line.) *Introduce the Main Idea!* (Wave hands repeatedly above your head.) *That's what all the information is about!* (Point both index fingers above your head.) *Psst! the Main Idea has a secret formula: S-S-Light Bulb.* (Cup hand next to mouth like telling a secret.) **Students write S-S-Light Bulb at the top of their papers.**



Draw a clock and eyes under the first "S".

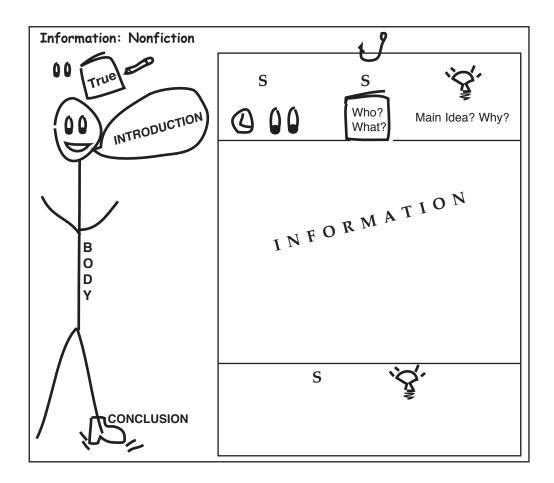
Chant and motion: *The first "S" is for setting. Setting tells us time* (point to your wrist pretending you are pointing at a watch) *and place* (put open hand over eyes). *Sometimes there is no setting, so we always read and find if the author tells us when or where the information takes place.*

Draw a book under the second "S".

Chant and motion: *The second "S" is for subject. Subject tells us who or what is the information about* (open hands like they are a book.)

Write "Main Idea and Why Important" under the light bulb.

The light bulb tells the Main Idea that the author is writing about (point above your head with an index finger) and why it is important! (Point above your head with the other index finger.)



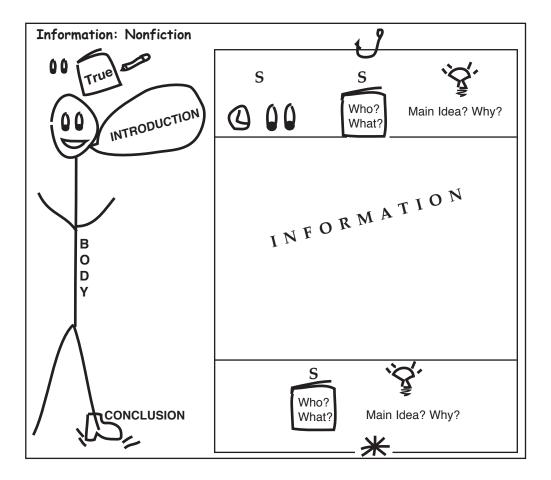
Teacher states: Go to the middle of the organizer for the body. Let's find out what is in the body.

Write "INFORMATION" in the middle section of the organizer.

Chant and motion: *Body! Tells information, information, information about the Main Idea.* (Fingertips touch shoulders, then move down and tap the torso. After gesturing and chanting "information", point above your head while chanting "about the Main Idea".)

Teacher states: Go to the bottom of the organizer for the conclusion. Let's find out what is in the conclusion.

Students write S-Light Bulb in the bottom section of their papers.



Chant and motion: *Conclusion!* (Stomp your foot and simultaneously move your hands and arms to make the *safe* motion like an umpire.) *Repeat the Main Idea* (point at head) using different words (point at feet). Finally, end with a snap! (Snap your fingers near your foot.) S-Light Bulb is the secret formula for the conclusion. (Rub open hands together.)

Draw a book under the "S".

Chant and motion: *The first "S" is for subject. Use different words to tell who or what the information is about* (open hands like they are a book.)

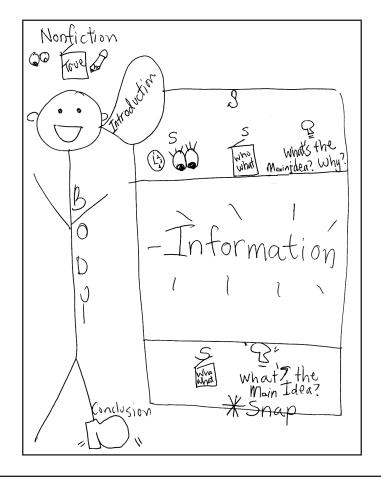
Write "Main Idea" under the light bulb.

The light bulb is for the Main Idea. Use different words to tell what the Main Idea is about. (Point above your head with an index finger, then point down to your foot.)

Draw an asterisk at the bottom of the organizer.

Chant and motion: *End the Conclusion with a Snap*. (Snap fingers.) *The Snap tells why the information is important*. (Shrug shoulders and hold out hands with palms up.)

Student Sample: Below is a typical student sample after completing Lesson One. This student recorded her notes on blank paper. The notes included the basic parts of informational text structure. After recording the notes and orally rehearsing the information, she then wrote the chant in her own words on a separate sheet of paper.



Informational text is true information, and it's the author's job to organize his or her writing so it always mokes sense. But organize author! Hook in the reader! Introduce the Big Ider: Setting, Subject, Bythin! Body! Write information about the Big Ider with main idea and details! Then end with a conclusion and Snappy Ending!