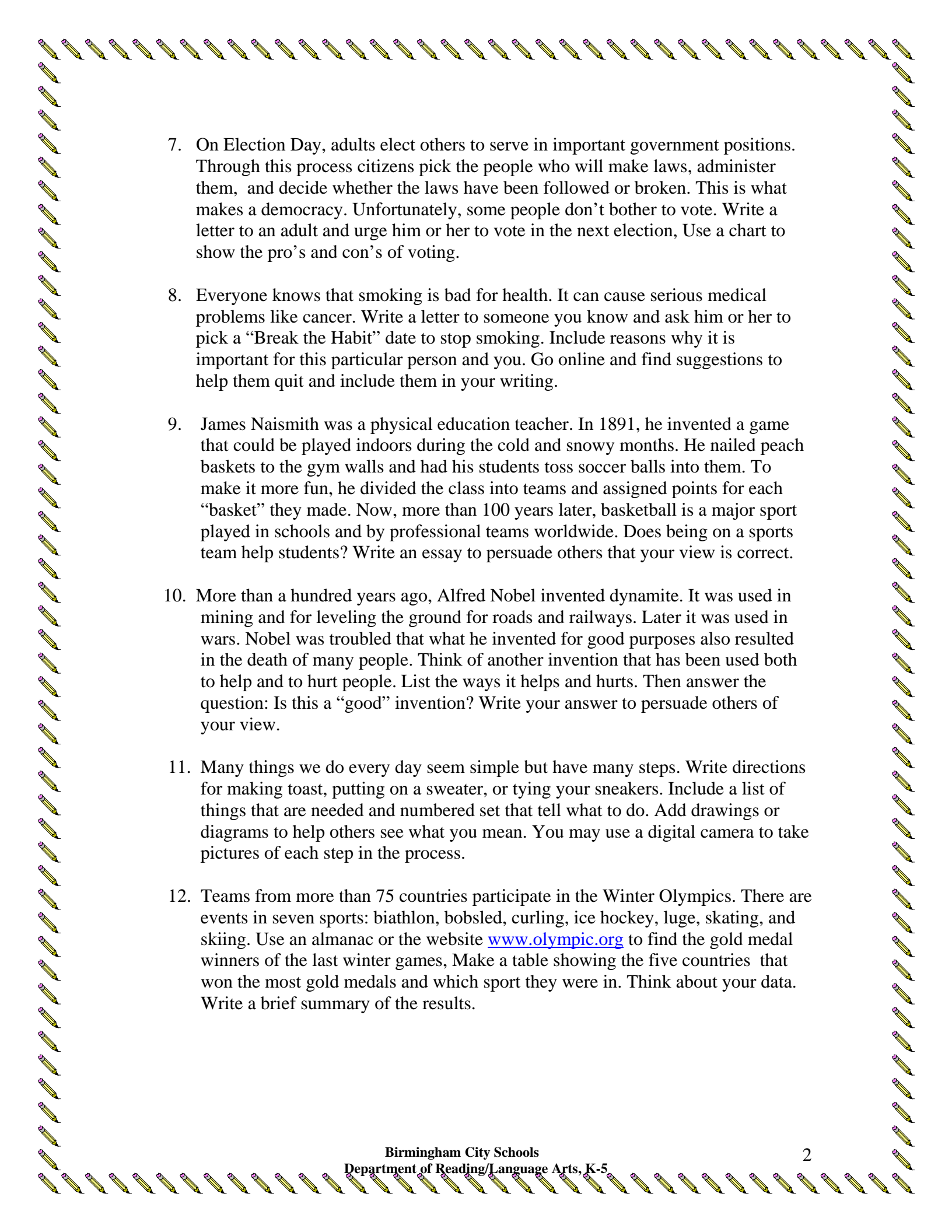


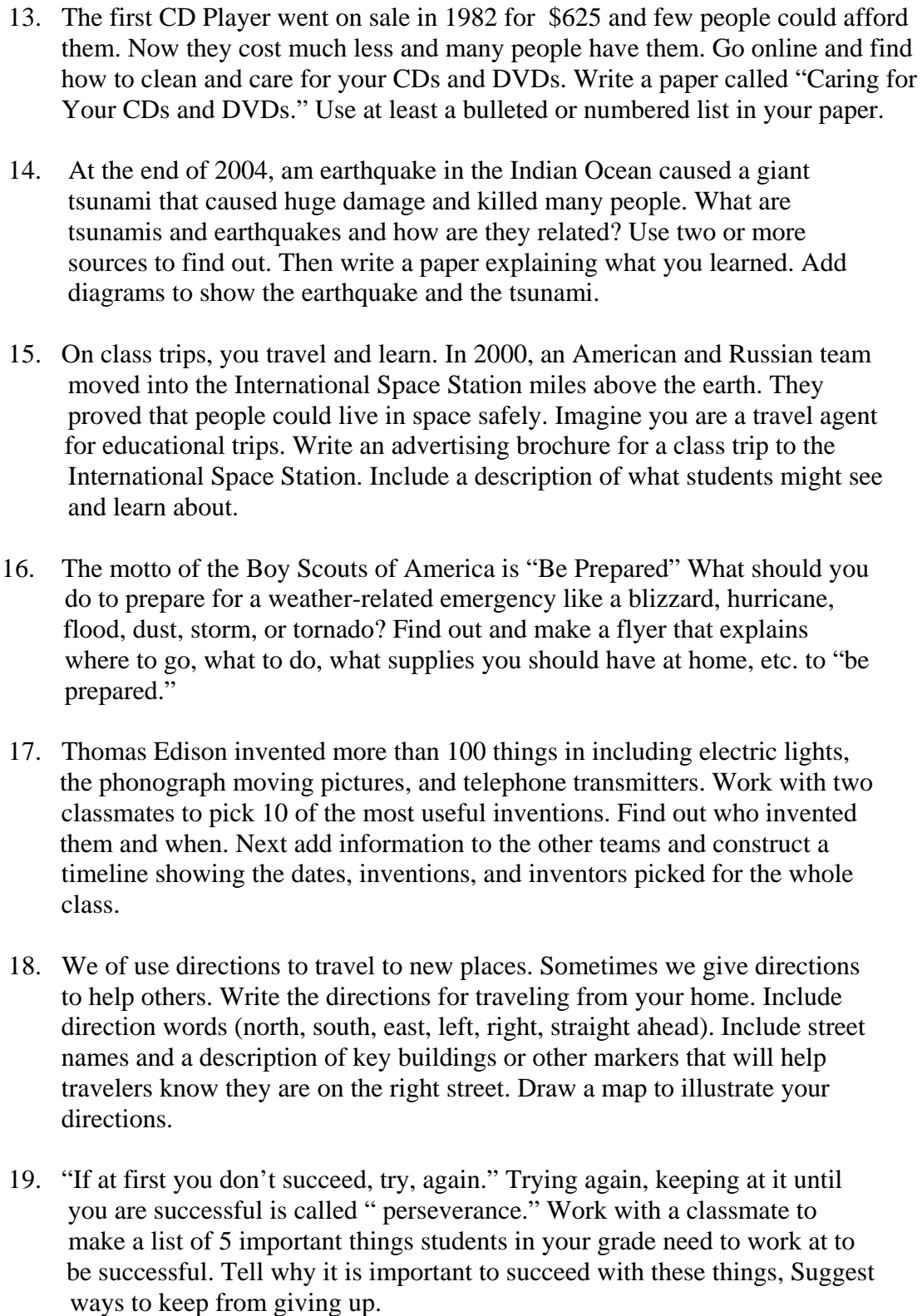
PROMPTS FOR EXPOSITORY WRITING

Expository writing is to inform or persuade is a skill needed by every student. Expository writing helps reinforce students' content learning, provides opportunities to process new knowledge in students' own words, develops students' ability to communicate clearly, and enables students to perform well standardized writing assessments.

Many teachers use a five-step writing process with one step each day: Prepare (think and organize). Draft, Revise content, Edit for grammar and format, and Publish. The prompts below will get your class writing from August to May. Create others from your content area lessons or other shared experiences in your classroom. Most of the topical prompts can be re-written for lower elementary grades. They can also be used for group writing, debates, panel discussions, and oral reports.

1. Emily Post is famous for her books on manners and suggestions for how people of all ages should behave at meals and in other social situations. Write a list of good manners (at least 7) that you believe everyone in your class should follow. Put the most important one first
2. Playgrounds, beaches, and parks are taken care of by our government. They are paid for with money from taxes. Does your city or town have enough "green spaces" for its citizens health and recreation needs? Write a letter to the mayor telling what you think.
3. Pablo Picasso is a world famous painter. He was born in 1881 and started the art style called *cubism*. It uses strong lines and vivid colors. Talent for art and music must be developed. Do you think art music lessons should be part of every school day? Write an essay explaining why or why not.
4. Giving gifts is part of many holiday traditions. Interview three people, including one adult, and ask them for advice about how to pick out a gift for someone. Use their suggestions to write a "Tips for buying gifts" article for the school newspaper.
5. Each fall, thousands of people go to New York City to run in the Marathon. Many train for years and run in local races as practice. Use the Internet to find advice for young people who want to begin to run as an exercise or sport. Write and article about how to get started. You may include a weeklong schedule, tips for safety, and recommendations for where to run in your city or town.
6. Some people have unusual pets. Pick an unusual animal you would like to have as a pet. Find out about it and write a paper explaining how to care for it. Include a description of the pet, its size when it is an adult, the kind of habitat it needs, its food, and any other information you or a friend would need to know before you purchased one.

- 
7. On Election Day, adults elect others to serve in important government positions. Through this process citizens pick the people who will make laws, administer them, and decide whether the laws have been followed or broken. This is what makes a democracy. Unfortunately, some people don't bother to vote. Write a letter to an adult and urge him or her to vote in the next election, Use a chart to show the pro's and con's of voting.
 8. Everyone knows that smoking is bad for health. It can cause serious medical problems like cancer. Write a letter to someone you know and ask him or her to pick a "Break the Habit" date to stop smoking. Include reasons why it is important for this particular person and you. Go online and find suggestions to help them quit and include them in your writing.
 9. James Naismith was a physical education teacher. In 1891, he invented a game that could be played indoors during the cold and snowy months. He nailed peach baskets to the gym walls and had his students toss soccer balls into them. To make it more fun, he divided the class into teams and assigned points for each "basket" they made. Now, more than 100 years later, basketball is a major sport played in schools and by professional teams worldwide. Does being on a sports team help students? Write an essay to persuade others that your view is correct.
 10. More than a hundred years ago, Alfred Nobel invented dynamite. It was used in mining and for leveling the ground for roads and railways. Later it was used in wars. Nobel was troubled that what he invented for good purposes also resulted in the death of many people. Think of another invention that has been used both to help and to hurt people. List the ways it helps and hurts. Then answer the question: Is this a "good" invention? Write your answer to persuade others of your view.
 11. Many things we do every day seem simple but have many steps. Write directions for making toast, putting on a sweater, or tying your sneakers. Include a list of things that are needed and numbered set that tell what to do. Add drawings or diagrams to help others see what you mean. You may use a digital camera to take pictures of each step in the process.
 12. Teams from more than 75 countries participate in the Winter Olympics. There are events in seven sports: biathlon, bobsled, curling, ice hockey, luge, skating, and skiing. Use an almanac or the website www.olympic.org to find the gold medal winners of the last winter games, Make a table showing the five countries that won the most gold medals and which sport they were in. Think about your data. Write a brief summary of the results.

- 
13. The first CD Player went on sale in 1982 for \$625 and few people could afford them. Now they cost much less and many people have them. Go online and find how to clean and care for your CDs and DVDs. Write a paper called “Caring for Your CDs and DVDs.” Use at least a bulleted or numbered list in your paper.
 14. At the end of 2004, an earthquake in the Indian Ocean caused a giant tsunami that caused huge damage and killed many people. What are tsunamis and earthquakes and how are they related? Use two or more sources to find out. Then write a paper explaining what you learned. Add diagrams to show the earthquake and the tsunami.
 15. On class trips, you travel and learn. In 2000, an American and Russian team moved into the International Space Station miles above the earth. They proved that people could live in space safely. Imagine you are a travel agent for educational trips. Write an advertising brochure for a class trip to the International Space Station. Include a description of what students might see and learn about.
 16. The motto of the Boy Scouts of America is “Be Prepared” What should you do to prepare for a weather-related emergency like a blizzard, hurricane, flood, dust, storm, or tornado? Find out and make a flyer that explains where to go, what to do, what supplies you should have at home, etc. to “be prepared.”
 17. Thomas Edison invented more than 100 things in including electric lights, the phonograph moving pictures, and telephone transmitters. Work with two classmates to pick 10 of the most useful inventions. Find out who invented them and when. Next add information to the other teams and construct a timeline showing the dates, inventions, and inventors picked for the whole class.
 18. We of use directions to travel to new places. Sometimes we give directions to help others. Write the directions for traveling from your home. Include direction words (north, south, east, left, right, straight ahead). Include street names and a description of key buildings or other markers that will help travelers know they are on the right street. Draw a map to illustrate your directions.
 19. “If at first you don’t succeed, try, again.” Trying again, keeping at it until you are successful is called “perseverance.” Work with a classmate to make a list of 5 important things students in your grade need to work at to be successful. Tell why it is important to succeed with these things, Suggest ways to keep from giving up.

20. Most of the energy we have is produced by using fuels like coal and gas. these fuels are being used up. Scientists are working to find new fuels that won't run out. Conservation helps use less fuel. Visit www.earthday.net or other websites to find out about conserving energy and creating new energy and creating new energy sources. Write a paper that summarizes what you learn about renewable and non-renewable energy sources.

