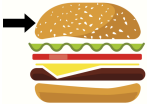




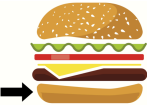


### Summary of Informative Text Rubric

Genre Chart Summary: Informative	3 Accomplished Goal	2 Just Beginning	1 Hasn't Started
<p>Includes a topic sentence that captures the central idea</p> 	<p>Topic sentence captures the central idea of the text</p>	<p>Topic sentence includes the subject in a general way</p>	<p>No topic sentence</p>
<p>States the title and author</p> 	<p>Clearly states the title and author with correct formatting</p>	<p>Includes the title or the author</p>	<p>Forgot to include the title and author</p>
<p>Includes only the main ideas</p>	<p>Includes only the main ideas</p>	<p>Includes some main ideas from some parts of the text</p>	<p>Includes a main idea from one part of the text</p>
<p>Paraphrases information</p> 	<p>Restates information in your own words</p>	<p>Most of the summary is in your own words</p>	<p>Copied from text</p>
<p>Follows same organizational structure as author</p> 	<p>Information is presented in the same order as the author</p>	<p>Most of the information is presented in the same order</p>	<p>Information is not organized</p>
<p>Uses transition words</p> 	<p>Transitions link together sentences/paragraphs</p>	<p>A few transitions are used to link together sentences/paragraphs</p>	<p>Missing transitions</p>
<p>Includes a concluding sentence</p> 	<p>Sentence restates the main idea</p>	<p>Has a concluding sentence, but does not restate the main idea</p>	<p>No concluding sentence</p>

# The Peregrine Falcon

by Emily Kissner

What is the fastest animal on Earth? Many people would say the cheetah. It's true that cheetahs are very fast, but the fastest animal on Earth doesn't run, it flies. The peregrine falcon wins the fastest animal award! Due to its incredible speed, the peregrine falcon is a masterful hunter.

Peregrine falcons live all over the world and are easy to recognize. As the largest falcon over most of North America, peregrines are one to two feet tall and have a wingspan up to four feet long. They have a sharp, hooked beak. Adults are bluish black to grey with a dark head.

They have fine stripes of brown, gray, and white across their chests. Bird lovers enjoy watching these falcons.

But the most important features of peregrine falcons help them hunt at high speeds. Peregrine falcons catch small to medium-sized birds in mid-flight. Their long wings help them to drop into steep dives, called stoops, very quickly. Also, their sleek, streamline shape helps the falcons reach speeds of over 200 miles per hour. That is as fast as a racecar! To help them take in air as they dive, the falcons have special noses. These noses let the birds breathe easily as the air pressure decreases. Have you ever stuck your head out the car window while driving quickly and your eyes teared up making it hard to see? Peregrines have a third eyelid that spreads tears and clean the eye so the bird can focus on their prey while diving. With so many special features, it's no wonder these falcons are such good hunters.

Peregrine falcons are the fastest animals in the world. As skillful hunters, they are known for their high dives as they chase their prey. These falcons are amazing to see—unless, of course, you are their prey.



Illustration from Naumann via Wikimedia Commons

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Summary of an Informative Text**

Title and Author

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Central Idea

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Main Ideas (first and second paragraphs of text)

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Main Ideas (third and fourth paragraphs from the text)

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Conclusion

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## Paraphrasing Practice

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**As a class:**

The dog likes to lick little kids' faces.

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Take out a pen or pencil and a piece of paper.

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**With partners:**

Alicia loves to ride her bike to school in the morning.

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My brother and sister fight all the time.

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The elephant sprayed water in the air on a hot day.

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# The A-10 Thunderbolt: A Warthog of a Plane

By Emily Kissner

Zoom! The Thunderbolt races through the sky. The Thunderbolt is a special airplane. Also known as the “Warthog” and the “Tankbuster”, this plane is an important tool for special missions or during times of war.

The Thunderbolt is a specialized plane. It is not a plane that carries soldiers from place to place. Likewise, it does not carry goods and supplies to different places. The Thunderbolt is a military airplane made for fighting.

An Air Force pilot mans the heavily armed Thunderbolt. The pilot

flies the plane from a special spot in the front of the plane called the cockpit. The



U.S. Army Photo



U.S. Air Force Photo

technology, the Warthog needs a talented pilot.

The Thunderbolt is an important military plane. Maybe someday you will see a Thunderbolt!

The Thunderbolt is armed with a cannon on the nose of the plane as well as a few different types of missiles. It is the pilot’s responsibility to fire the plane’s missiles and canon to hit targets on the ground, usually tanks and armed vehicles. With so much important



## Organizational Structure

**Directions:** Read each paragraph. Write the organizational structure of article and give a reason why you chose either compare/contrast or description.

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### *Frogs and Toads*

“Ribbit, ribbit,” sounds a frog from the pond. Or is it a toad? People often mistake frogs and toads for one another, but they actually are very different animals.

Frogs and toads look so much alike because they are both tailless amphibians. These two animals are cold-blooded, meaning their bodies are the same temperature as their environment. Active mostly during rainy days or at night, frogs and toads prefer to keep cool and stay out of the heat or sunlight. Toads and frogs use their long, sticky tongues to capture various insects.

Upon first glance, frogs and toads look almost identical, but truth be told, they are not as similar as you might think. As you might have guessed, a frog’s skin is moist because it lives in or near water. As an adult, toads live mostly on land, so their skin is drier. Since frogs swim and leap, their legs are longer and stronger with webbed feet. On the other hand, toads have short hind legs for walking. Also, toads usually have a flatter, wider body and bumpier skin than most frogs. Frogs lay eggs in clusters or groups, while toads lay their eggs in long chains.

Remember, frogs and toads are active in the evening and will probably be in a shady area. Next time you see an animal that resembles a frog, look closely and ask yourself some questions. How would you describe the animal’s skin? How would you describe its legs? Does the animal walk or jump? Do you see any eggs? By comparing frogs and toads you start to see how different they really are!

**Organizational Structure:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How do you know it uses this structure?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Organizational Structure

**Directions:** Choral read each article. Discuss the organizational structure with students. Write the organizational structure of each article and give a reason for why you chose either compare/contrast or description.

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*The A-10 Thunderbolt: A Warthog of a Plane*  
by Emily Kissner

**Organizational Structure:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How do you know it uses this structure?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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*The Peregrine Falcon*  
by Emily Kissner

**Organizational Structure:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How do you know it uses this structure?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Using Transitions

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks by choosing an appropriate transitional word or phrase. There may be multiple choices for each blank space. Choose the transition that you think best connects ideas and completes the sentence.

Transitional Words and Phrases		
Additionally	Everyday	In their free time
After school	Finally	Last
Also	First	Next
Before work	Hardworking	On weekends
During the day	In the evening	Once a week
	In the morning	Talented

#### Community Parks

Can you think about all the different ways parks make communities better? From the city to farmlands, parks are everywhere! Parks are important places to communities.

Many people spend their free time enjoying activities in the park. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ pet owners bring their dogs to parks to play fetch or just go on a walk. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ children love to play baseball on the fields or on the playgrounds! Community parks are a place for people to exercise. \_\_\_\_\_ joggers and walkers travel along the paths that weave around the park. \_\_\_\_\_ families and friends gather here to celebrate birthdays, holidays, and other special events.

Parks provide jobs to people in the community. \_\_\_\_\_ park rangers help keep parks safe for everyone to enjoy. \_\_\_\_\_ sanitation workers keep the parks clean. \_\_\_\_\_ gardeners, or landscapers, mow the grass and prune the bushes and shade trees. \_\_\_\_\_ parks hold many summer events like neighborhood concerts and plays that employ many types of positions like ticket collectors, cashiers, and event organizers. Jobs from community parks are important.

Parks give people a free or low-cost place to have fun. Not only do parks give people a place to visit with family and friends, but they also provide jobs within the community. Next time you visit the park, remember the different ways parks are important to your community.

### Revision: Summary of Informative Text

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

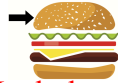
#### Rubric Score

Student

Teacher

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#### Genre Chart



Includes a topic sentence that captures the central idea

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_



States the title and author

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_

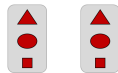
Includes only the main ideas

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_



Paraphrases information

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_



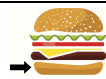
Follows same organizational structure as the author

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_



Uses transition words

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_



Includes a concluding sentence

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_

**Editing Checklist**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student      Teacher**

- \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_ 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. Each paragraph is indented.
  - \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Correct spelling, including “No Excuse” words.
  - \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Grammar focus for the class)*
- 
- 

**Editing Checklist**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student      Teacher**

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- \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Each paragraph is indented.
- \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Correct spelling, including “No Excuse” words.
- \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Grammar focus for the class)*

## *Summary of Informative Text Assessment*

### **Summary: Informative Genre Chart**

- Includes a topic sentence that captures the central idea
- States the title and author
- Includes only the main ideas
- Paraphrases information
- Follows same organizational structure as author
- Uses transition words
- Includes a concluding sentence

**Write a summary about the article. Include all elements from the Genre Chart.**

# Spring Peepers

by Emily Kissner



“Cheep, cheep!” What is that peeping sound? In early spring, you’ll see tiny frogs at ponds. These frogs are called peepers because the males make a loud sound. Some people think peepers sound like birds, while others say they sound like bells chiming!

In March, spring peepers are easy to hear. However, they are hard to see because they are very small! Spring peepers only grow as big as your thumb.

Spring peepers are nocturnal, or active at night. What do such tiny frogs hunt during the night? Spring peepers catch small bugs, like ants and beetles. These little frogs do not worry too much about predators, but sometimes snakes will eat them.

When it is time to have babies, spring peepers lay their eggs in the ponds. The eggs hatch in a few days. If the weather is warm, the eggs will hatch quickly. They like small, shallow ponds best. Spring peepers like ponds that don’t have many fish. Fish would eat their eggs and tadpoles.

In a few weeks, these tadpoles grow into adult spring peepers. As spring turns to summer, spring peepers leave the ponds. They go to live in fields and forests. Even scientists have trouble finding spring peepers in the summer.

But in the spring, be sure to listen. Maybe you will hear the beautiful song of the tiny spring peepers.