

Tip #1: Informative content takes a variety of forms.

Facts and Statistics

Example: *He led the team in tackles and played in the Pro Bowl four years in a row, but his most important contribution has been in the locker room. He motivates the team with his pre-game pep talks, but also scolds teammates when necessary.*

The information details the number of years, and specifically states the method by which the subject motivated his teammates.

Details

Example: *The large terra cotta flower pot sat on the far right corner of the desk, with the curious kitten playing dangerously below.*

Adjectives (“large,” “terra cotta,” “curious,” “far,” “right”) verbs (“sat,” “playing”), nouns (“flower pot,” “corner,” “desk,” “kitten”) and adverbs (“dangerously”) provide detail about the event and make the description vivid.

Examples and Reasons

Example: *Our landscaper cuts grass and prunes hedges like an artist. The trees on the south side of the garden are all trimmed on an arc, so the upkeep is strenuous, but she works hard. Occasionally, when bored, she will form one of our shrubs into a geometrical shape.*

The proof for the first sentence, in this case, the topic sentence, is given in the paragraph. The reasons are provided with objective, factual information about location and types of greenery and subjective, opinions about the quality and difficulty of the work.

Anecdotes, Observations, and Stories

Example: *I was finally about to graduate from grade school and move to high school, when I received disturbing news. The man who had touched my life more than anyone else was moving to a new church. He said, "You're moving on, and it's time I do also." That summer came and went by very quickly, but every chance I had, I went to visit Pastor Adam. We even went to a NASCAR race together to see our favorite driver, Dale Earnhardt.*

The use of the quote and the explanation of the context make the content interesting. The short example of the incident provides detail and a sense of the relationship between the author and the subject.

Reference to Research (Note: When using sources within your writing, you should effectively summarize, paraphrase, or quote information from the source.)

Example: *Booker T. Washington wrote many letters in protest of the stereotypical portrayal of blacks in the 1915 movie, Birth of a Nation (History Cooperative).*

This summary of information found on the History Cooperative’s site is evidence of the actions of Washington.

Tip #2: Using a variety of details will make your writing interesting, informative, and precise, as well as help you clearly illustrate your attitude and controlling idea.

Subjective Details are interpretive descriptions. They establish the author’s opinion, perspective, and tone. They need not be factual or empirically verifiable.

Example: I could hear the workers drilling and the constant, rhythmic murmurs of hammers in the background. The harmony of the drills and hammers nearly lulled me off to sleep.

The use of descriptive words, such as “murmurs” and “harmony,” illustrate how the writer feels about the details he or she observed: the sounds of the “drills and hammers.”

Objective Details are facts or examples that can be logically proven. The use of these details demonstrates the writer’s level of expertise and tone.

Example: The builder completed the new house in three months.

The detail about how long it took to build the house is objective and can be logically proven.

Prewriting Activity: As you prepare your MY Access! essay, consider all the forms that informative content can take. Then, as you conduct your research and delve further into your topic, write an example of each that you will be able to use in your essay.

Fact or Statistic: _____

Subjective Detail: _____

Objective Detail: _____

Example or Reason: _____

Anecdote, Observation, or Story: _____

Reference to Research: _____
