Informative paragraphs

Guided explanation of a marble run

Name _____ Date _____

Quick review Introduce a focused topic. Group accurate details in a useful order, connect ideas and write a conclusion. Explain rather than persuade.

Example A lost-and-found checklist records the item, location and date. This opening names a clear topic and previews useful information to explain.

Write an exhibit paragraph for visitors at a fictional class design fair. Your purpose is to explain how the supplied cardboard marble run works, not to persuade visitors that it is the best model. Follow the guided plan and write one paragraph of 100-140 words. Use only the design notes for facts. The model and task answers are examples; other accurate explanations are valid. Use the rubric for feedback, not an automatic score.

Marble-run design notes

[1] The cardboard board is tilted, with its starting point higher than its end. Paper channels are glued to the board. Gravity pulls a released marble downhill; the model has no motor.

[2] Raised rims along the channels help keep the marble on its route. The route has two turns that change its direction. A tray at the bottom collects the marble at the end of the run.

1. Plan an opening that introduces the topic for fair visitors. State the informative purpose in your planning note.

2. Plan the order of the explanation. List the starting condition, the guiding parts, and the final collecting part, using supplied facts.

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Draft and revise using the prompt and planning notes from page 1. More than one strong response is possible.

3. Draft your 100-140-word informative paragraph. Explain the parts and their roles, link the details, and end with a related concluding statement.

4. Revise this vague sentence with precise part names and their functions: 'The sides help it, and the thing catches it.'

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Responses and feedback: Guided explanation of a marble run

These are sample responses and reasoning. Accept other answers that fit the task and are supported by the text or language rule.

Planning / revision 1: Opening: The cardboard marble run guides a marble from a raised starting point to a tray below. Purpose: explain how the run's parts work together.
The sample names the model and its overall action, giving visitors a focus before the details.

Planning / revision 2: Start: a tilted board and gravity move the released marble downhill. Route: paper channels with raised rims guide it through two turns. End: a tray collects it at the bottom.
Follow the marble's route so the reader can connect each part to the next.

Planning / revision 4: Raised rims help keep the marble in the channels, and the tray collects it at the bottom. Replace 'sides' and 'thing' with the supplied terms 'raised rims' and 'tray.' Naming the marble also clears up the first 'it.' Other precise revisions that preserve the functions are valid.

One possible paragraph

The cardboard marble run guides a marble from a raised starting point to a tray below. Its board is tilted, so gravity pulls the released marble downhill through paper channels glued to the board. Raised rims along the channels help keep the marble on its route. The route has two turns, which change the direction of travel before the marble reaches the bottom. Finally, the tray collects the marble at the end of the run. This model has no motor; gravity supplies the pull that moves the marble downward. Together, the tilted board, guiding channels, and collecting tray make a connected path that visitors can follow from start to finish.

Feedback checklist

Use these criteria to discuss the model. Scan the lesson QR for the full three-level rubric; no automatic score is assigned.

Topic and Purpose: Introduces a focused topic and consistently explains it in a way that fits the named audience and informative purpose.

Accurate Information and Explanation: Develops the explanation with accurate, relevant supplied facts and clear connections or definitions without inventing claims.

Organization and Linking: Groups details in an order suited to the topic, uses clear connections, and concludes with a statement that follows from the explanation.

Clarity and Conventions: Uses precise topic words and complete sentences; grammar, capitalization, spelling, and punctuation support easy understanding.

Revise, then edit

1. Check that the opening introduces the marble run and explains its overall action to fair visitors.
2. Follow the marble from the raised start through the channels and turns to the collecting tray.
3. Verify each part and function against the notes; use precise terms and do not invent measurements or guaranteed results.
4. Make the conclusion connect the parts, then check sentence boundaries, spelling, capitals, and punctuation.