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CHAPTER 4

The Nine DEEP FACTS Methods

What are the nine purposeful ways a writer can further explain selected evidence?

At the Doorstep

Students often believe explanation means repeating the evidence with different words. DEEP FACTS expands the writer's choices. It gives students nine recognizable ways to clarify, interpret, develop, connect, and humanize evidence.

The Big Idea

DEEP FACTS is a repertoire, not a checklist. The writer chooses the method that best serves the evidence, purpose, prompt, and reader.

Code	Method	What it does for the reader	Best used when…
D	**Define**	Clarify the exact meaning of a word, phrase, idea, or concept the reader must understand before the evidence can do its work.	A key term is unfamiliar, abstract, technical, used in a special context, or open to more than one interpretation.
E	**Example + Explanation**	Make a general idea concrete by showing one clear instance and then explaining exactly what that instance demonstrates.	The claim is broad, abstract, or easier to understand through a specific instance.
E	**Expert Testimony**	Use credible specialized knowledge to clarify, strengthen, qualify, or challenge an explanation.	The issue depends on specialized knowledge, research, professional experience, or a perspective the writer cannot supply alone.
P	**Process / Procedure**	Explain how something happens, develops, works, or is completed through stages, steps, or interacting parts.	The reader needs to understand a sequence, mechanism, system, procedure, or chain of actions.
F	**Facts & Statistics**	Use verifiable information, counts, measurements, percentages, or research findings to show scale, pattern, frequency, or change.	The reader needs proof of how much, how often, how many, how large, or how conditions changed.
A	**Analogy**	Clarify an unfamiliar or complex idea by mapping it to a more familiar relationship.	The concept is abstract, invisible, technical, or difficult to picture directly.
C	**Compare & Contrast**	Explain meaning by examining important similarities, differences, criteria, changes, or relationships between two or more things.	The reader must judge change, choice, effectiveness, perspective, structure, or relationship.
T	**Tipping Point / Cause & Effect**	Trace why change occurred, how conditions interacted, and which event, pressure, or decision became the point that shifted the outcome.	The prompt asks why, how one condition affected another, what changed an outcome, or which factor mattered most.

E: Expert Testimony

How does Expert Testimony become deeper without becoming unnecessarily longer?

At the Doorstep

A student can include expert testimony and still leave the reader with unanswered questions. The presence of the method tells us what kind of explanation the student attempted. The quality of the reasoning tells us the Cognitive Address. This chapter keeps those two judgments separate.

Why This Chapter Matters

Use credible specialized knowledge to clarify, strengthen, qualify, or challenge an explanation.

BEST USED WHEN

The issue depends on specialized knowledge, research, professional experience, or a perspective the writer cannot supply alone.

WHAT IT IS NOT

Adding a quotation simply because it sounds authoritative.

The Big Idea

Expert Testimony can live at any of the five thinking levels. The student moves upward by making the meaning more precise, purposeful, connected, and significant.

SAME EVIDENCE USED ACROSS ALL FIVE LEVELS

A wildlife biologist explains that dark beaches help newly hatched sea turtles move toward the moonlit ocean instead of toward buildings.

Level	What the student does	Same evidence: protecting sea turtles
Foundational	Identifies, quotes, or names an expert.	A wildlife biologist says sea turtles need dark beaches.
Emergent	Paraphrases or explains what the expert is saying.	The biologist explains that bright buildings can lead hatchlings away from the ocean.
Visible	Explains why the expert's information strengthens the student's point.	This expert testimony strengthens the point because a biologist studies animal behavior and explains why turning off beach lights directly improves the hatchlings' chance of reaching the water.
Independent	Selects credible, relevant expertise and integrates it smoothly into the reasoning.	The biologist's explanation is especially useful because it connects a human action—reducing artificial light—to a specific animal response, rather than merely stating that darkness is better.
Reflective	Evaluates the expert's perspective, evidence, limitations, possible bias, or relationship to other sources.	The testimony is strong for explaining hatchling behavior, but a complete decision should also consider local lighting data and safety needs. Using the expert with those sources creates a more balanced solution.

DETAILED DEEP FACTS × THINKING LEVELS MATRIX — PART 3 OF 3

Read across to see one explanation method deepen. Read down to compare what one cognitive level looks like across methods.

DEEP FACTS METHOD	FOUNDATIONAL WHAT?	EMERGENT WHAT DOES IT SHOW?	VISIBLE WHY?	INDEPENDENT HOW?	REFLECTIVE SO WHAT?
C **Compare & Contrast**	Identifies a similarity or difference.	Describes how two things are alike or different.	Explains why the similarity or difference is important.	Selects meaningful criteria and uses the relationship strategically.	Synthesizes the comparison to reveal patterns, consequences, implications, or a new conclusion.
T **Tipping Point / Cause & Effect**	Identifies a cause or an effect.	Makes a basic connection between cause and effect.	Explains how or why one condition produced or contributed to another.	Weighs multiple causes and effects and identifies the important tipping point.	Analyzes chains of causation, long-term effects, unintended consequences, or a defensible alternative path.
S **Story / Anecdote**	Tells or mentions a relevant story or event.	Adds enough context and detail for the reader to understand what happened.	Explains what the story demonstrates and why it supports the point.	Selects the most meaningful details and uses the anecdote strategically to advance the reasoning.	Uses the story to reveal a broader principle or significance while recognizing the limits of a single experience.

Part 3: Compare & Contrast, Tipping Point / Cause & Effect, Story / Anecdote.

CHAPTER 30

DEEP FACTS in Informative Writing

How do writers use DEEP FACTS to teach a reader rather than merely report information?

At the Doorstep

Informative writing often contains accurate facts but limited explanation. The writer collects information, organizes it by topic, and assumes the reader will understand why each detail belongs. DEEP FACTS turns information into instruction by helping the writer define, demonstrate, sequence, quantify, compare, connect, and clarify.

The Informative Writing Path

Writing move	Purpose	Student question
TUNE	Establish the topic and focus.	What will the reader understand?
TEACH	Organize the reasons, ways, parts, or categories.	What main ideas will teach the topic?
TAP	Select accurate, relevant evidence.	What information proves or develops each idea?
DEEP FACTS	Choose how to further explain the evidence.	Does the reader need a definition, example, process, number, analogy, comparison, cause, expert, or story?
THINK	Explain the WHY.	Why does this evidence support the focus?
TOGGLE	Explain relationships and significance.	How do the ideas connect, and why does the relationship matter?

High-Value Informative Methods

Method	Common informative job
Define	Clarifies precise academic vocabulary and concepts.
Process or Procedure	Explains how a system works or how stages develop.
Facts and Statistics	Shows measurable scale, pattern, frequency, or change.
Example and Explanation	Turns a general concept into a concrete instance.
Compare and Contrast	Organizes categories and explains meaningful differences.
Analogy	Makes an invisible or complex system easier to picture.
Tipping Point of Cause and Effect	Explains why conditions produce outcomes.

CASE SCENARIO: HOW A GREEN ROOF WORKS

PASSAGE

A green roof contains soil and plants above a waterproof layer. The soil absorbs some rain, plant roots hold the soil in place, and remaining water reaches drains more slowly. The plants also shade the roof surface.