

THE LEARNING WALL

A - B

The 3 – 5 ELA Concept Learning Bricks packet is organized alphabetically, with each concept explanation (concept, question, answer, gesture, and examples) listed first and the Concept Learning Brick visual listed behind the explanation. This section contains **17** Concept Learning Bricks from the A and B sections. Please refer to The Learning Wall Introduction and Explanation at www.PEPnonprofit.org for details on how to implement these items in your classroom.

Aa

adjective, adverb,
almanac, alliteration,
antonyms, apostrophe,
appendix, appositive,
atlas, author, author's
purpose, autobiography

Bb

base word,
bibliography, biography,
body of a letter



Adjective



Question: What is an adjective?

Answer: An adjective is a word that describes a noun.

Gesture: Flex your bicep and squeeze it with the other hand. Say “*He has big muscles.*” (Emphasize “*big,*” the adjective that describes the noun, “*muscles.*”)

Examples: afraid, big, brave, brown, foolish, shy, strong

Today is the fifth day of January. Joe’s truck has a flat tire.

adjective



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Adverb

Question: What is an adverb?



Answer: An adverb is a word that describes verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs.

Gesture: Move your hands over one another quickly, or slowly, up and down. Say “*climbed slowly*” (Emphasize “*slowly*,” the adverb that describes the verb, “climbed.”)

Examples:

- Adverbs that tell us how: carefully, quickly, quietly, slowly.
- Adverbs that tell us when: today, tomorrow, weekly, yesterday
- Adverbs that tell us where: anywhere, everywhere, somewhere
- Adverbs that tell us to what extent: extremely, quite, really



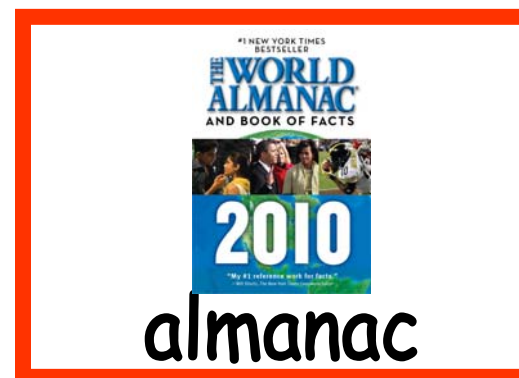
adverb



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Almanac

Question: What is an almanac?



Answer: An almanac is a yearly reference book including calendars with weather forecasts, star information, and other interesting facts relating to countries of the world, sports, entertainment, etc.

Gesture: Open both hands like you're holding a book, next look to the sky (weather forecast and star information), then use fingers to show the current year...2 fingers, 0 fingers, 1 finger, 1 finger for 2011.

Examples: Ask your students the following questions. **1.** Would you find the address to a pizza place in an almanac? **2.** Would you find the nominees for "Best Actor" from 2009 in an almanac? **3.** Would you find the amount of rain that fell in New Mexico in 2009 in an almanac? **4.** Would you find a list of websites to learn about algebra in an almanac?

(answers 1. no, 2. yes, 3. yes, 4. no)

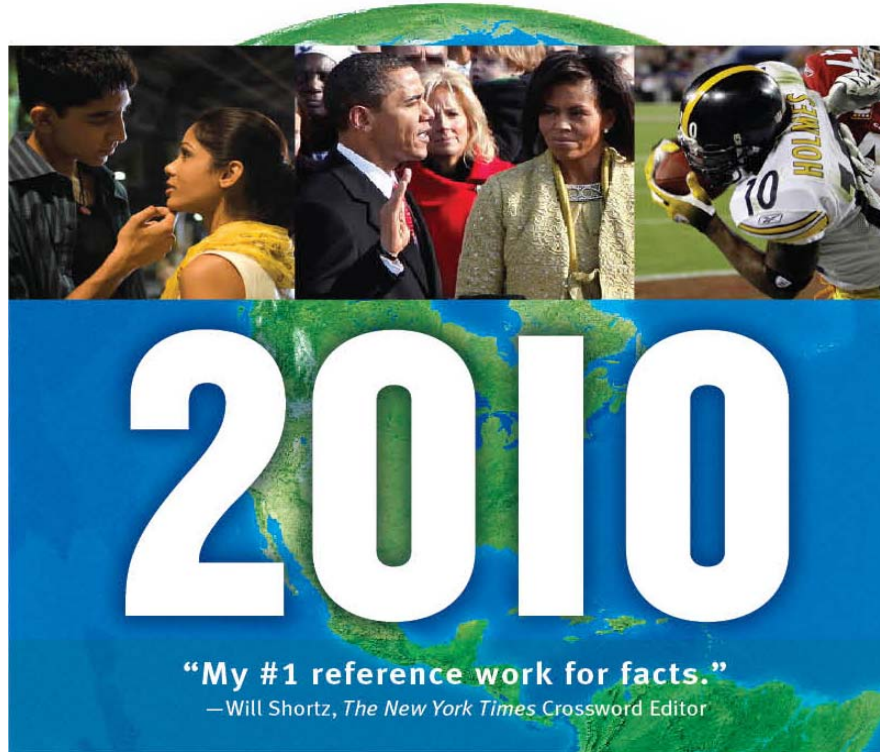
#1 NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLER

THE WORLD ALMANAC®

AND BOOK OF FACTS



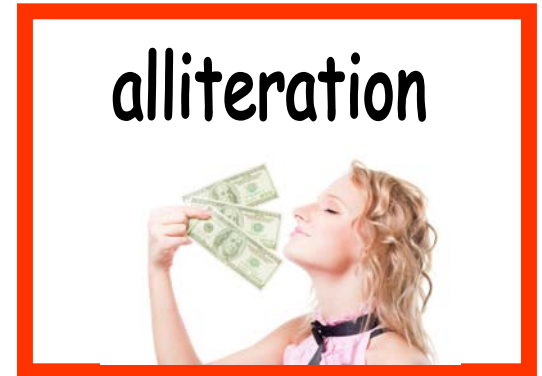
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almanac

Alliteration

Question: What is alliteration?



Answer: Alliteration is the repetition of the same sounds or of the same kinds of sounds at the beginning of words or in stressed syllables, as in Sarah smells the sweet scent of satisfaction.

Gesture: As you say, “Sarah smells the sweet scent of satisfaction,” hold up a finger for each time you hear the /s/ sound. You should have five fingers up at the end.

Examples: The baron was busy as a bee. Paula planted the petunias in the pot.
Lazy lizards lying like lumps! Boil the butter and bring it by the bank.
Kim comes to cut colorful kites.

alliteration



Antonyms



Question: What are antonyms?

Answer: Antonyms are two words with opposite meanings.

Gesture: Point up with one hand and point down with the other.

Examples: beg – offer, moist – dry, evil – good, fail – succeed, smile – frown, villain – hero.

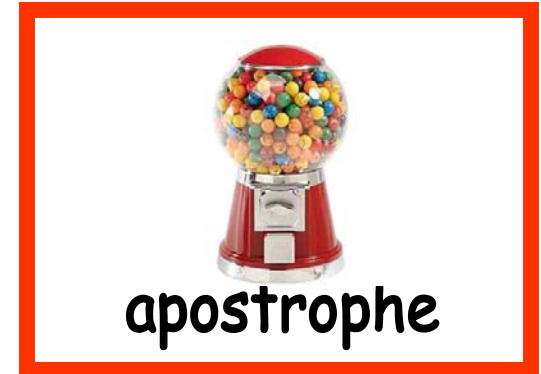
The image features the word "antonyms" written in a large, black, rounded, sans-serif font. Two hands are visible: one on the left pointing upwards towards the first letter 'a', and one on the right pointing downwards towards the last letter 's'. The background is white, and the entire scene is framed by a thick red border.

antonyms



Apostrophe

Question: What is an apostrophe?



Answer: An apostrophe is a small mark used in contractions and possessive nouns.

Gesture: Pretend like you take a piece of gum from your mouth and use one finger to draw a comma in the air and make a squishing sound. (the apostrophe is a like a piece of gum that sticks the words together.)

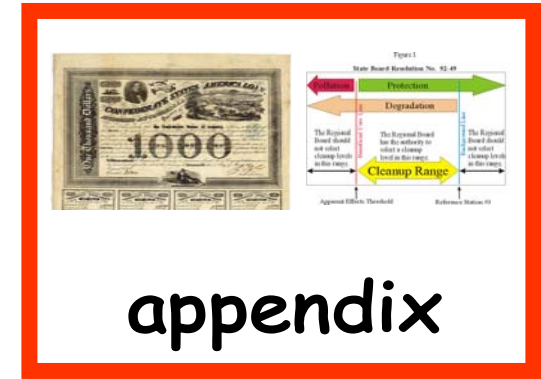
Examples: Use the apostrophe with contractions. The apostrophe is always placed at the spot where the letter(s) has been removed: do not – don't, is not – isn't, you are – you're.

Use the apostrophe to show possession. Place the apostrophe before the *s* to show singular possession: one boy's hat, one woman's hat, one actress's hat, one child's hat, Ms. Smith's hat.



apostrophe

Appendix



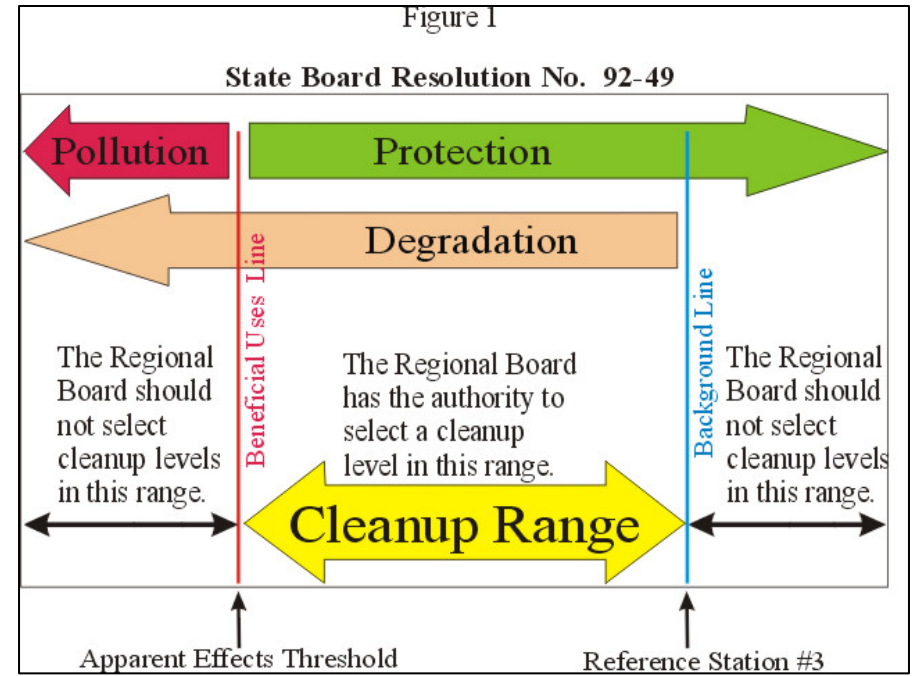
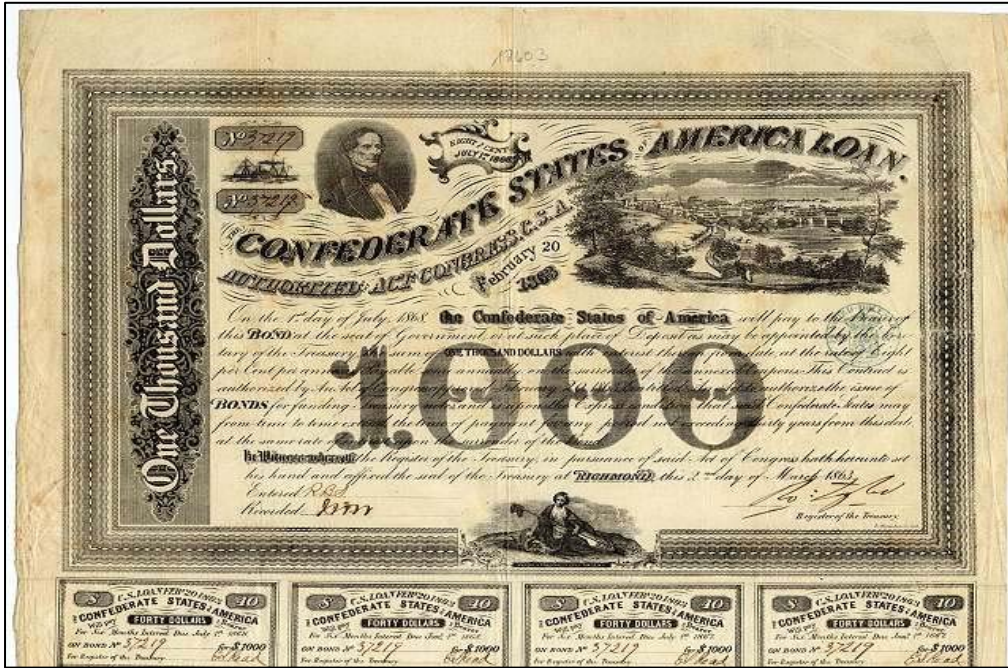
Question: What is an appendix?

Answer: An appendix is a collection of useful information that does not need to be included in the main body of a book; it could be an article, chart, graph, historical document, or other text.

Gesture: Open both hands like a book and then pat your self on the back (to indicate that an appendix is at the back of a book).

Examples: True or False: **1.** A table of contents is in an appendix. **2.** A map of the world is in an appendix. **3.** An appendix is in the front of a book. **4.** An appendix allows the author to display some historical documents.

(answers: 1. False, 2. True, 3. False, 4. True)



appendix



Appositive



Question: What is an appositive?

Answer: An appositive is a noun or pronoun placed beside another noun or pronoun to identify, describe, or rename it, separated by commas.

Gesture: Hold up a fist and say a noun (Mr. Jones), then hold up the same fist and rename the noun (my 4th grade teacher).

Examples: The **insect, a large cockroach**, is crawling across the kitchen table.
The **neighbor boys, the twins**, were excellent baseball players.
These **two students, Kay and Eric**, are new to our school.
James loves **two games, checkers and chess**.
Mr. Jones, the store manager, will be with you shortly.



/

appositive

Atlas



Question: What is an atlas?

Answer: An atlas is a book of maps.

Gesture: Point your hand to the four corners of the room (North, South, East, West) and then open your hands as if opening a book.

Examples: Key terms associated with an atlas: axis, climate map, compass rose, equator, inset map, latitude, legend, longitude, map key, meridian, physical map, road map, scale, topographic map



atlas

Author



Question: What is an author?

Answer: An author writes the words of a book, story or poem.

Gesture: Pretend like you're writing.

Examples: Types of literature written by an author: poetry, drama, short story, novel, biography, essay, letter, fables, myths and legends, and fairy tales, folk tales, and fantasy



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author

Author's Purpose



Question: What is author's purpose?

Answer: Author's purpose is the reason why an author decides to write about a certain topic. The purpose of the writing is to persuade, inform, or entertain his/her ideas to the reader.

Gesture: Pretend like you're writing (author gesture) and hold up three fingers. Name the three types of author's purpose as you touch each finger (persuade, inform, entertain).

Examples: Questions you can ask about author's purpose: Did the author try to make me laugh? (**entertain**). Did the author want to tell me a story? (**entertain**). Did the author want to change my opinion? (**persuade**). Did the author try to teach me something? (**inform**). Did the author try to amuse me? (**entertain**). Did the author give me some facts? (**inform**). Did the author try to convince me? (**persuade**).

author's purpose

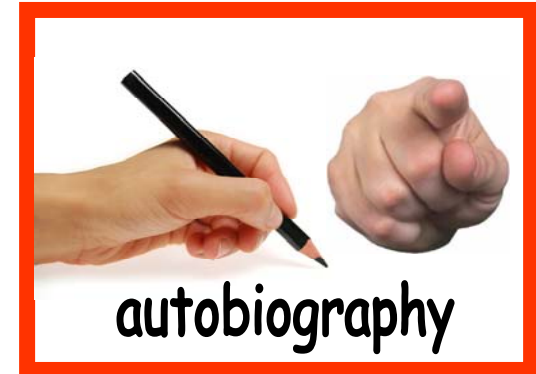


persuade inform entertain



Autobiography

Question: What is an autobiography?



Answer: An autobiography is a history of a person's life written or told by that person.

Gesture: Pretend like you're writing (author gesture) and then point to yourself.

Examples: If you wrote an autobiography, who would it be about?

When a person writes a story about his or her life, what is this type of writing called?

If someone in your family wrote a story about you, it would not be an autobiography, even though it a story about you. Why would this story not be an autobiography?



autobiography

Base Word

Question: What is a base word?



Answer: A base word is a word from which other words grow, usually through the addition of prefixes and suffixes.

Gesture: Hold both hands out in front of body shoulder width apart to represent a word with a prefix or suffix (unbelievable). Move hands in closer to show the root word with all affixes removed. (believe)

Examples: unbelievable – believe, abnormal – normal, bicycle – cycle, biweekly – week, malpractice – practice, nonoperational – operate, pretest – test, unopened – open, misunderstanding – understand, bimonthly – month.

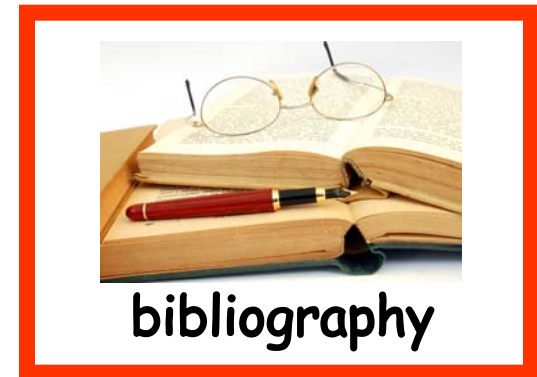
learning



base word

Bibliography

Question: What is a bibliography?



Answer: A bibliography is a list of writings with the time and place of publication.

Gesture: Hold hands together like a book, then point to your wrist...where a watch would be (time) and point to an area (place).

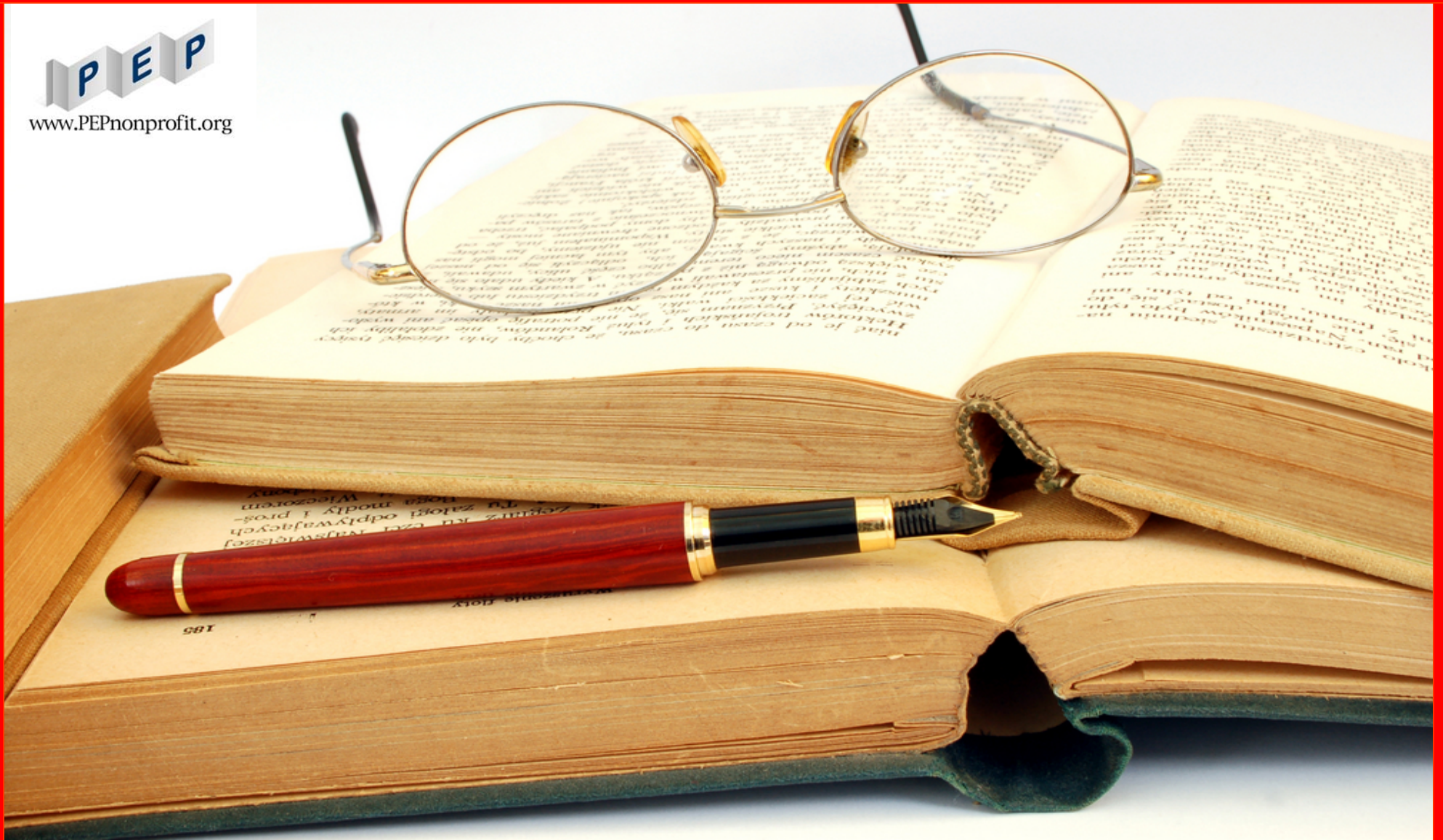
Examples: Last Name, First Name. Name of book. City of publication:
Publisher's name, Copyright Date.

Greenfield, Eloise. Rosa Parks. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell
Company, 1973.

Simon, Seymour. *Hurricanes*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1996.



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bibliography

Biography

Question: What is a biography?



Answer: A biography is a written account of another person's life.

Gesture: Pretend to look through some binoculars (both hands to eyes) as if you're watching someone and then pretend to write.

Examples: Can biographies be written about anyone?
Is a biography the history of a person's life written by that person?
Is every biography written by a different person?



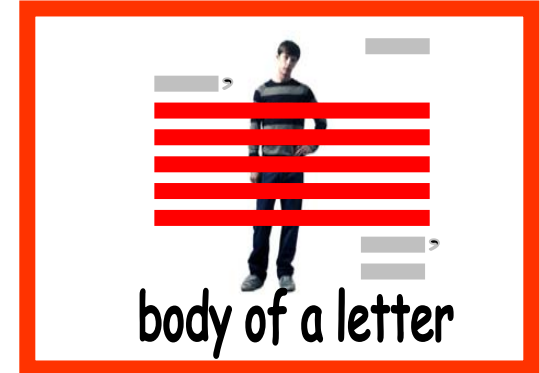
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biography

Body of a Letter

Question: What is the body of a letter?



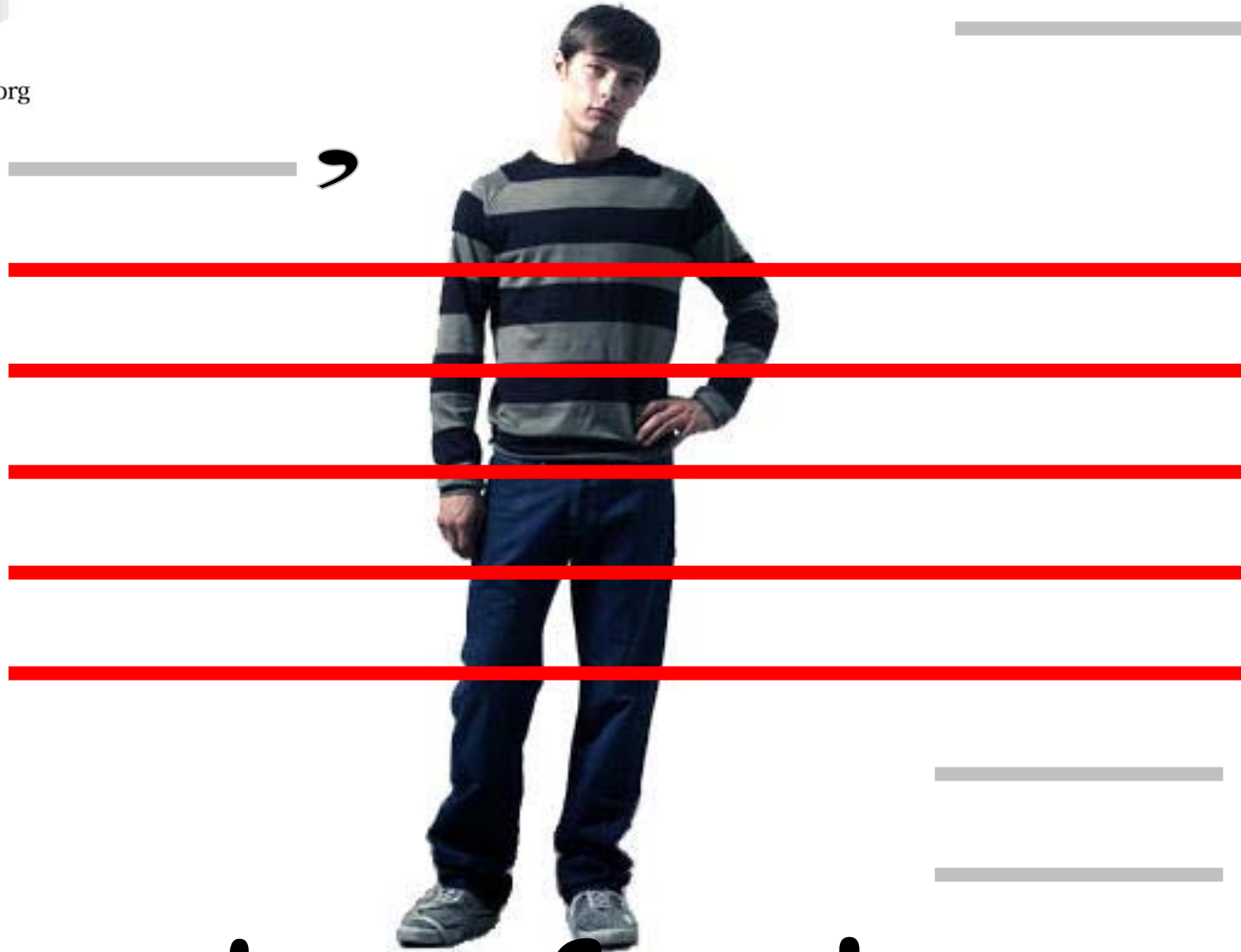
Answer: The body of a letter is the letter's message or the main part of the letter.

Gesture: Point to your neck all the way down to your knees for the body (showing it is the largest part of the letter).

Examples: Project or write a friendly letter on your screen or whiteboard. Point to different sections of the letter and ask the class if this is the body of the letter. Point to the greeting, date, closing, signature, etc...



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body of a letter