The key components and techniques listed below will help you prepare for and organize information for writing your expository essay.

**Key Components of an Expository Essay**
- Expository writing defines and explains.
- Introductory or lead paragraph invites the reader to explore the topic.
- Thesis statement reveals overall purpose of the writing.
- Body consists of three or more points, descriptions, or examples.
- Concluding paragraph restates the thesis and offers the reader the opportunity to reflect further on the topic.

**Techniques**
- Show – Don’t tell.
- Paraphrase relevant facts or stories.
- Organization varies: chronological, order of importance, or order of familiarity.
- Address separate aspects of the topic in each paragraph.
- Paragraphs elaborate on key components.
- Specific details and examples support the main idea of each paragraph.
- Proofread and delete unrelated or unnecessary information.

**Sample Expository Essay Outline**

**Pizza is my favorite food because . . .**

I There are several reasons why pizza is my favorite food.

II It is tasty.
   A A variety of cheese tops a pizza nicely.
   B Red or white sauce goes well with all the toppings.
   C Pepperoni is my favorite topping.

III It is fun to eat.
   A Cheese stretches from the plate to my mouth.
   B Sharing is easy.
   C A single pizza can have a variety of toppings.

IV It is worth paying for.
   A Order in.
   B Have a party.
   C Great leftovers.

V Pizza is my favorite food because it is tasty, fun to eat, and worth paying for.