

***Expository Writing Task***  
***Comparing Two Historical Periods Through***  
***a Portrait--Colonial versus Modern Times***

Activating Prior Knowledge:

During our study of the colonial period through Elizabeth Murray's portrait, many of you were amazed at aspects of daily life that could be interpreted from a painting.

Writing the Expository essay:

Write an essay comparing and contrasting colonial dress, hairstyles, make-up, etc. with modern ways. Include evidence to support inferences, conclusions or generalization you have made about this time period through Elizabeth's portrait.

**Organization:**

**1<sup>st</sup> paragraph**.....introduction to topic—use an audience grabbing topic sentence—include what you will be comparing/contrasting in your essay.

**2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph**.....Using a topic sentence, describe at least 3 similarities between colonial/modern times in regards to the portrait

**3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph**.....Using a topic sentence, describe at least 3 differences between colonial/modern times in regards to items in the portrait.

**4<sup>th</sup> paragraph**.....conclusion—If you had a portrait painted of yourself, what might it reveal about you and your time period? Why do you think Elizabeth had her portrait painted?

**Remember:**

- Use transition words: Similarities—also, in addition, furthermore...  
Differences—but, on the other hand, in contrast...
- Check for periods, capitals, and commas.
- Check for complete sentences.
- Check for correct spelling.