

Diagnostic Assessment  
Info Expo Diagnostic (Pre-test)  
For the Unit Plan:  
Info Expo

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## Info Expo Pre-test

A combination of constructed and selected responses

**Duration:** One 55-minute session

**Standard(s) Assessed:** L.A.A.1.3.4.8.1, L.A.A.2.3.6.8.2, L.A.A.2.3.7.8.1, L.A.A.2.3.7.8.2, L.A.A.2.3.7.8.3, L.A.A.2.3.7.8.4, L.A.B.1.3.1.8.1, and L.A.B.1.3.1.8.2

**Description of Assessment Activity:** Students complete a multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer test that covers the research process from reading and taking notes to using a prewriting strategy.

### Teacher Directions:

1. Introduce students to the name of the unit, Info Expo, but do not define expository writing at this point.
2. Describe the steps that students work through to complete a research paper. They do this, first collaboratively and then independently.
3. Prepare students for the pre-test. Explain that the Info Expo Pre-test determines what the students know already. This is a no-stakes test.
4. Administer the test. It averages approximately 45 minutes. Extend it into the next session if necessary. When the test is completed, collect it.
5. Collect the pre-tests to assess.

### Following the pre-tests:

Assess the pre-tests. Determine the sections where the majority of students demonstrate mastery. If any sections have been mastered, review the course of instruction, and omit any unnecessary instruction. Return the pre-tests to students. Allow time for students to evaluate their knowledge. Likely, students' scores are poor. This immediately confirms the need for the upcoming unit. Collect the tests when students have completed their reflections. Return the pre-tests again at the conclusion of the four week unit after the students have taken the post-test. When the students are reflecting upon their growth, they use the pre-tests and post-tests to make judgments about their learning.

**Student Directions:**

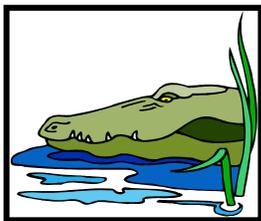
1. Listen to the teacher's discussion of Info Expo.
2. Recognize the pre-test is a no-stakes test.
3. Take the test by following the written directions. Raise your hand if you need help reading the directions or a question.
4. Return to the teacher when completed.

**Scoring Method and Criteria:**

The pre-test is a diagnostic assessment, and the teacher reviews the tests to decide what knowledge the students have before entering the unit.

1. Assess the pre-tests for accuracy using the attached answer key.
2. Determine the sections where the majority of the students demonstrate mastery. If any sections have been mastered, review the course of instruction, and omit any unnecessary instruction. Return the pre-tests to the students. Allow time for students to evaluate their knowledge. Likely students' scores on the test are poor. This immediately confirms the need for the upcoming unit. Collect the tests when students have completed their reflections.

**Note for the teacher:** Please recognize that the assessments used within this unit are models. The writing rubric and the process rubric work regardless of the content used by the teacher, however, the pre-test and the post-test work better if the teacher integrates the content of the unit into the tests. For example, I used science content such as alligators and whales. If a teacher chooses to pursue a unit of study in mythology, it would be very effective to integrate the mythology content into the pre-test and post-test. It just enhances the instruction.



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

## PRE-TEST Info Expo Unit

1. Read the source of information in the box below, and answer the question below the box.

**Source**

**ALLIGATOR:** The female stands guard as the eggs incubate in the heat from this decaying vegetation and from the sun. When the eggs are ready to hatch in about 60 days, the young begin to croak softly within the egg. The female may then assist the young in escaping from the nest and may even carry them in her mouth to the water's edge.

"Alligator," Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2000  
<http://encarta.msn.com> © 1997-2000 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

Which example below is the best form to follow when taking notes?

- 
- The female stands guard as the eggs incubate in the heat from this decaying vegetation and from the sun. When the eggs are ready to hatch, in about 60 days, the young begin to croak softly within the egg. The female may then assist the young in escaping from the nest and may even carry them in her mouth to the water's edge.
  - A female alligator protects her eggs. They incubate in a nest of mud and leaves that is hot because it is decaying. In 60 days, the young will make a croaking sound. The eggs will begin to hatch and the female will carry them to the water.
  - Female stands guard, eggs incubate in heat from decaying vegetation, when eggs are ready to hatch in 60 days, young begin to croak softly in egg, female assists young in escaping from next, carry them in mouth to water's edge.

2. Finish the following sentences with your own ideas.

Summarizing is

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Paraphrasing is

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Quoting is

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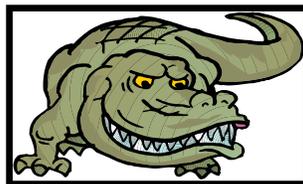
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3. A report focuses on the topic of **American Alligators**. Which source would be the best choice for locating ideas for that report?

- a. book titled **Alligators of the Florida Everglades**
- b. Web site titled **Alligators--Once an Endangered Species**
- c. video titled **Crocodilians and Alligators**
- d. magazine article titled **"Alligators, the Great Freshwater Predator"**

4. What sources would you use to write a research paper? List as many as you can.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.



5. Read the facts in the word bank below and decide the best method for compiling the information in the organizer on the next page. Remember that some of the information is unnecessary and can be discarded. When you have made your choices, place the words in the organizer on the next page.

Oviparous-egg layers

The first reptiles

Lizards

Nile crocodile

Alligators and dinosaurs both cold-blooded

Cold-blooded

Modern cold-blooded animals

Snakes

Tortoises

Alligators -- modern day dinosaurs

Similarities between dinosaurs and alligators

Alligators and dinosaurs both egg-layers

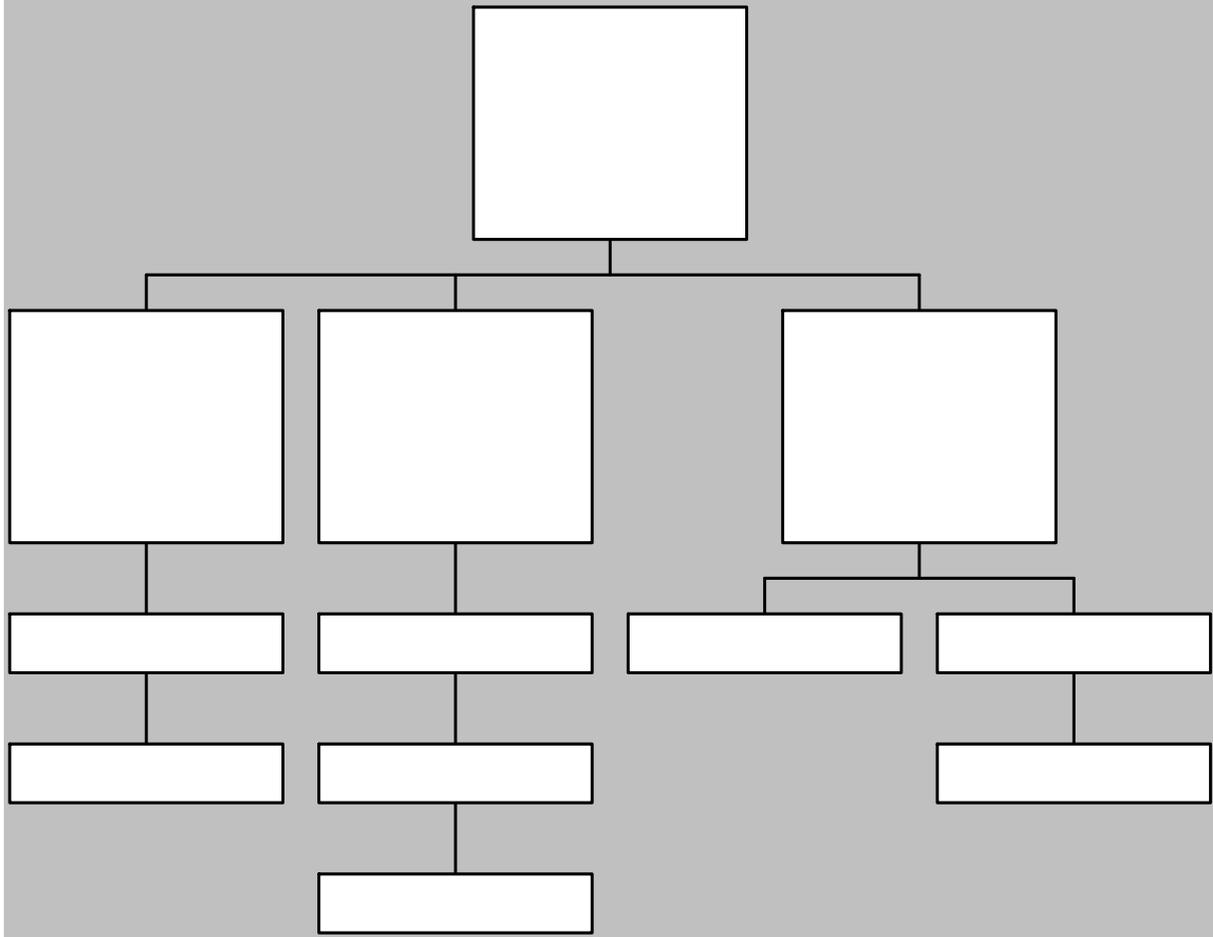
Endangered species

Spanish *el lagarto*, "the lizard"



Record your final choices on the organizer on the next page.

# Alligators- Modern Day Dinosaurs



Record information that you do not use in the blanks below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Given the following bibliographic information, create a source card for a research paper.

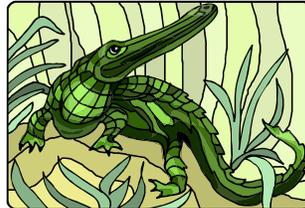
Publisher -- Puffin Books  
City where published -- New York  
Author -- Edward Camper  
Title of the book -- Flying Dinosaurs  
Date the book was published -- 1967

**SOURCE CARD**

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7. Read the following information. Then choose the report title that best represents the information.

➤ **EGYPTIAN MUMMIES**

In ancient Egypt many animals, including the crocodile, were sacred. In some of the temples, crocodiles were looked after in special pools, draped with pendants of gold and precious stones. When they died they were embalmed, or mummified.

➤ **A STITCH IN TIME**

Mary Queen of Scots was held as a prisoner by Queen Elizabeth I from 1569 - 1584. She and her gaoler set to work embroidering this massive wall hanging. The crocodile is just one of the many animals they produced. Presumably the work had a calming effect on Mary as she awaited her execution.

➤ **CROCODILE GOD**

Sobek, the crocodile god of ancient Egypt, gradually developed from a minor protective god to one of the most important of all the Egyptian deities. No one knows whether he became a god because he was so feared.

This text is taken from pages 34-35 of *Eyewitness 26: Reptile* published by Dorling Kindersley Copyright © Dorling Kindersley Limited

- Egyptian Gods
- Crocodiles- A Symbol for All Time
- Crocodiles -- Myth or Monster?
- Fear of Crocodiles -- An Examination throughout History

What report title best represents the information?

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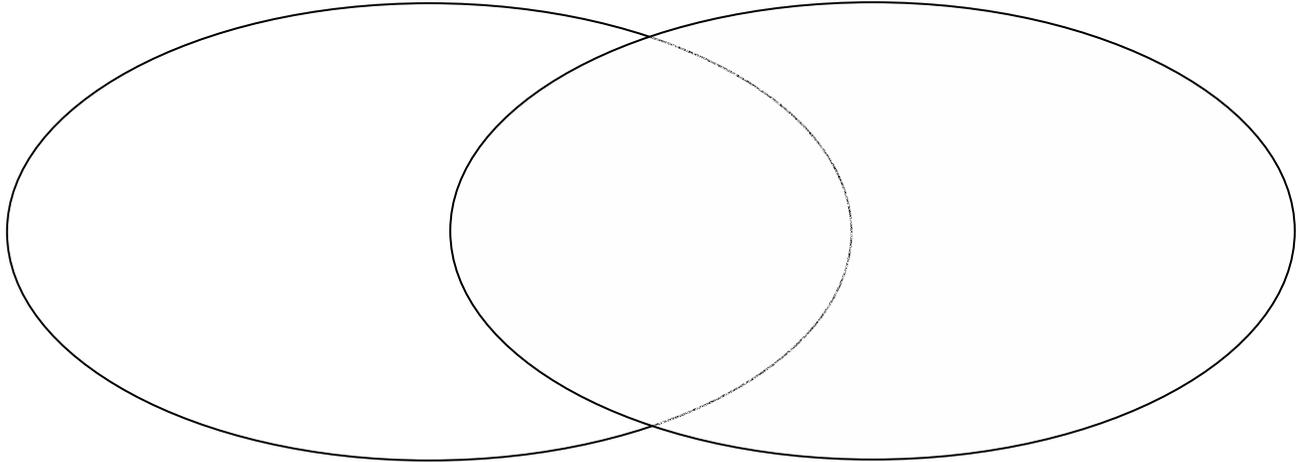
8. The following information is from two different sources. Use the Venn Diagram below to record similarities and differences in the information. When you are finished, write a sentence that compares and/or contrasts the information from the two sources.

The American alligator is one of the most vocal species of reptiles. Its call is like the roar of a lion. Alligators grumble or roar when they are aggravated.

1998 *The Wild Ones*  
c/o [Wildlife Preservation Trust International](#)  
1520 Locust Street, Suite 704, Philadelphia, PA

Crocodylians are the most vocal reptiles, producing sounds from quiet hisses to fearsome roars and bellows, usually during the mating season.

"Crocodile (reptile)," Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2000  
<http://encarta.msn.com> © 1997-2000 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.



Statement: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Read the following excerpt from *Britannica Online*. Decide what the major points are, and compile that information in an organizer (for example, a concept map, an outline, a T-chart, a Venn diagram, etc.)

**Alligators**, like other crocodilians, are large, lizard-like animals with powerful tails that are used both in defense and in swimming. Their eyes, ears, and nostrils are placed on top of their long heads and project slightly above the water when the reptiles float at the surface, as they often do. **Alligators** differ from [crocodiles](#) in having broader snouts; in crocodiles, moreover, the fourth tooth in each side of the lower jaw projects outside the snout when the mouth is closed. **Alligators** are carnivorous and live along the edges of relatively large bodies of water, such as lakes, swamps, and rivers. They dig burrows in which they escape from danger and in which they hibernate during cold weather.

**CREATE YOUR ORGANIZER HERE.**



10. You must complete an expository essay on the American alligator. What steps would you take to prepare before you begin writing the essay?

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11. You must complete an expository essay on the American alligator. What prewriting strategy would you use and why?

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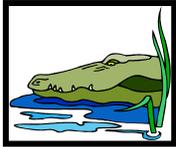
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ **ANSWER KEY** \_\_\_\_\_

### PRE-TEST Info Expo

1. **b. is the correct choice; it is the only one that does not plagiarize**
2. Finish the following sentences with your own ideas.

Summarizing is

**Summarizing is presenting the important information in a condensed form.**

Paraphrasing is

**Paraphrasing is the restatement of texts in other words as a studying or a teaching device.**

Quoting is

**Quoting is to repeat or copy the words of another usually with acknowledgement of the source.**

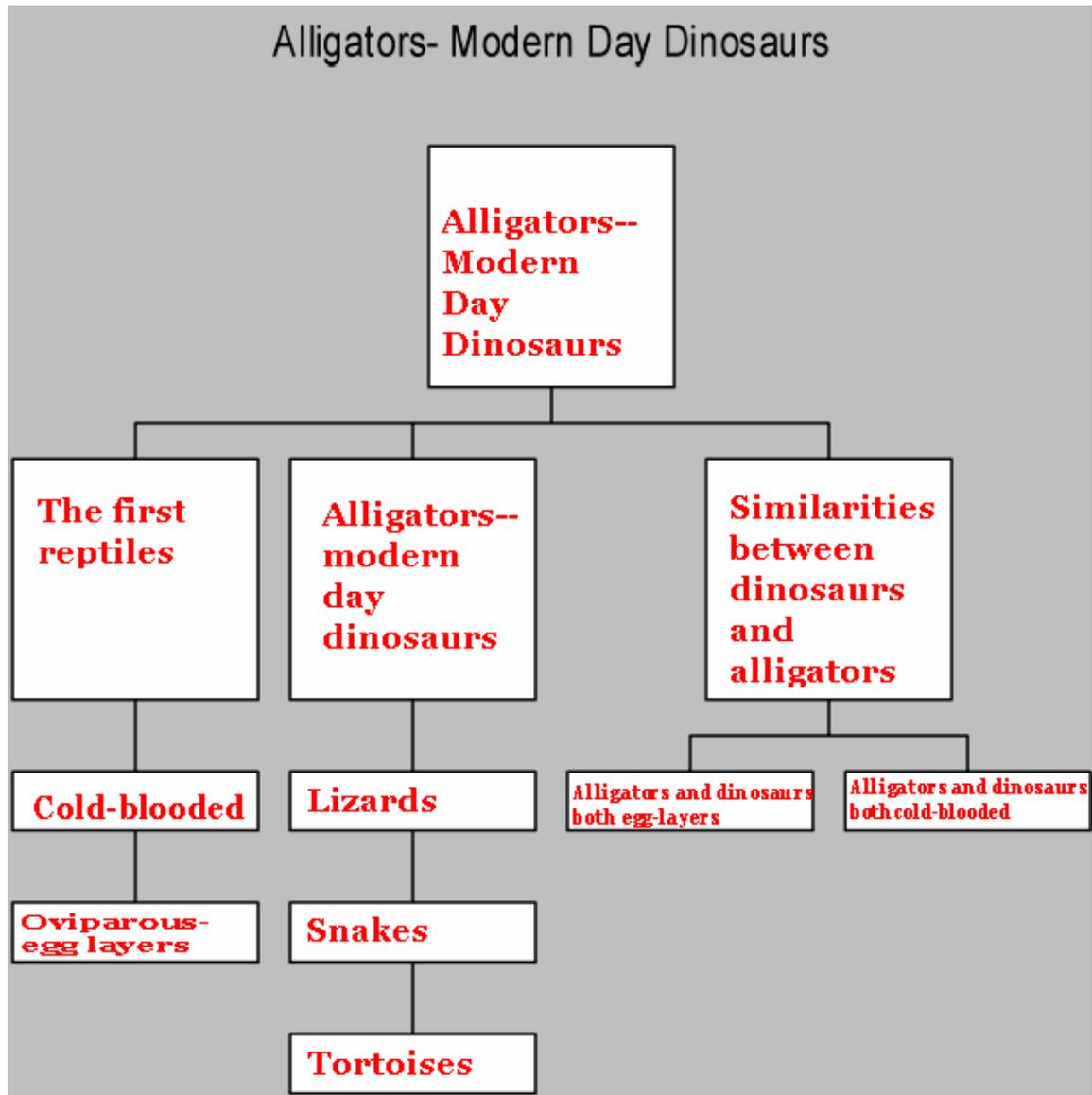
3. A report focuses on the topic of **American Alligators**. Which source would be the best choice for locating ideas for that report?

The intent here is for the students to focus in on the key word Florida since the topic is **American** alligators. Arguably, any of these sources might touch on the topic of **American** alligators; however, the question asks for the best choice. Since the Florida source is also a book, it most likely contains more information than the other sources, especially about **American** alligators.

4. What sources would you use to write a research paper? List as many as you can.

1. book	2. magazine
3. dictionary	4. encyclopedia
5. Web site	6. video recording
7. personal interview	8. diary
9. newspaper	10. audio recording
11. artifact	Other

5. Read the facts in the word bank below and decide the best method for compiling the information in the organizer on the next page. Remember that some of the information is unnecessary and can be discarded. When you have made your choices, place the words in the organizer on the next page.



Record information that you do not use in the blanks below.

1. Nile crocodile    2. Endangered species    3. Spanish e/ lagarto, "the lizard" \_

6. Given the following bibliographic information, create a source card for a research paper.

Publisher -- Puffin Books  
City where published -- New York  
Author -- Edward Camper  
Title of the book -- Flying Dinosaurs  
Date the book was published -- 1967

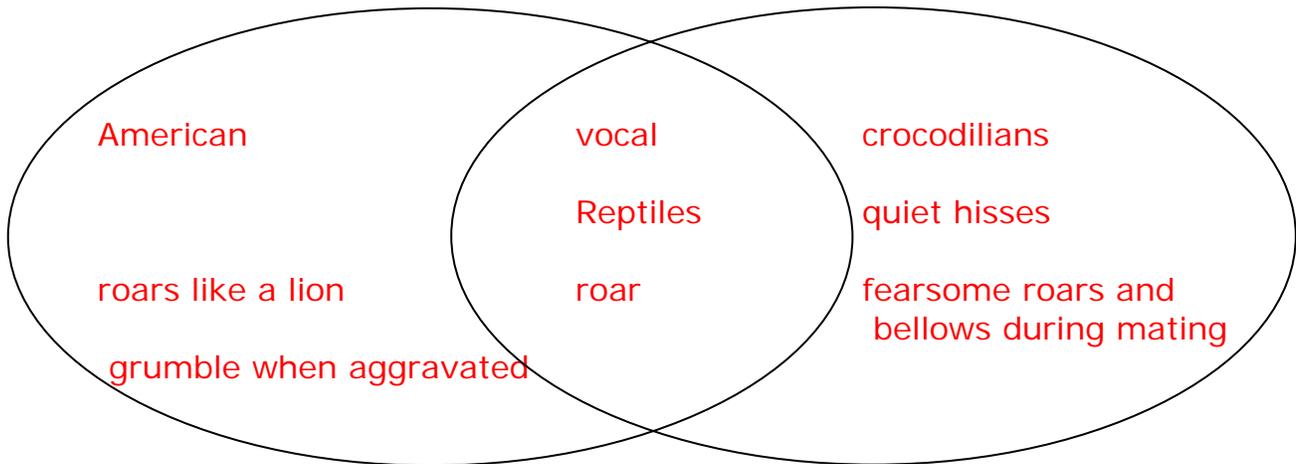
**SOURCE CARD**

Camper, Edward, Flying Dinosaurs,  
New York: Puffin Books, 1967.

7. Read the following information. Then choose the report title that best represents the information.

Crocodiles- A Symbol for All Time is the best title since the excerpts portray crocodiles during different time periods.

8. The following information is from two different sources. Use the Venn diagram below to record similarities and differences in the information. When you are finished, write a sentence that compares and/or contrasts the information from the two sources.



Statement:

Alligators and crocodiles are both very vocal reptiles.

(or other acceptable statements that fit with the Venn)

9. Read the following excerpt from Britannica Online. Decide what the major points are, and compile that information in an organizer (for example, a concept map, an outline, a T-chart, a Venn diagram, etc.)

Review student responses for acceptable organization charts that contain the major points from the paragraph. Listed below are several details that should be included in the organizer.

Alligators are:

large, lizard-like, long head

have powerful tails for defense and swimming

have eyes, ears, and nostrils are on top of their heads and project above water

are carnivorous, live along water's edge

dig burrows to escape or to hibernate

They differ from crocodiles because:

broader snouts

fourth tooth projects out of the mouth when it is closed

10. You must complete an expository essay on the American alligator. What steps would you take to prepare before you begin writing the essay?

Student answers should reflect some logical form of the organization process. Here is a possible example.

- a. brainstorm or consider ideas
- b. research
- c. compile information
- d. organize information
- e. prewrite

11. You must complete an expository essay on the American alligator. What prewriting strategy would you use and why?

Student answers should contain a prewriting strategy that fits with expository writing. A sophisticated answer would contain details or reasons as to why this strategy is preferable. Realistically, any strategy is acceptable as long as the student feels comfortable using it for the writing format that is required. The standard targeted here requires the student to choose a prewriting strategy suitable for the writing task at hand.