**6th Grade Writing Practice  
Narrative Writing**

A *narrative* is a made up story. For your task today, you need to read the attached articles, taking notes on what might be important, and then write a short story answering the following prompt:

You work for NASA and are in charge of the Department of Alien Relations. You’ve been working on establishing communication with aliens for years and today you finally made contact. Tell the story of your first interaction with aliens. What was it like? What did you/they say? Will you tell anyone? Who? Why or why not?

Remember: A good narrative has a beginning, middle, and end. There also needs to be some sort of climax (conflict, exciting moment, etc.) and a resolution to that climax. Plan out your story on the back of this paper. Be sure to include at least 3 pieces of information from the articles attached. If you are quoting the article, be sure to say what article the quote was from.

**7th Grade Writing Practice  
Explanatory Writing**

Explanatory writing is writing that explains something. For your task today, you need to read the attached articles, taking notes on what might be important, and then write a short essay answering the following prompt:

You are writing an article for your school newspaper. You need to explain recent developments in our understanding of alien life. What have these articles taught us and why is it important?

First, plan your writing. You need:

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

Three pieces of evidence (be sure to write down what article they’re from):  
1.  
  
  
2.  
  
  
3.  
  
  
When you include your pieces of evidence, be sure to include where you got them from.

Use the back of this paper to plan your essay. Once your planning is complete, write a multi-paragraph (3 at least) essay for your school newspaper.

**8th Grade Writing Practice  
Argumentative Writing**

Argumentative writing is writing where you pick one side of an issue and explain that side. For your task today, you need to read the attached articles, taking notes on what might be important, and then write a short essay answering the following prompt:

You work for NASA and are on a team established to decide whether or not the U.S. should try to make alien contact. You now need to submit an essay stating your side of this issue. You must include:

A claim (state your side, including 3 reasons):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3 reasons for your claim and 2 pieces of evidence for each reason. For each piece of evidence, remember to write down the article it came from:

Reason:  
Evidence:  
  
  
Evidence:  
  
  
Reason:  
Evidence:  
  
  
Evidence:  
  
  
Reason:   
Evidence:  
  
  
Evidence:

Remember to explain why the other side is a bad idea using evidence from the articles as well. Use the back of this paper to plan your essay.