**Spring is Here!**

**Introduction**

Your introduction should be 4-5 sentences long. Remember that an effective way to begin an introduction is to use;

 Onomatopiea (sound word)

 Question (?)

 Exclamation (!)

The purpose of an introduction is to grab the reader’s attention and make them want to keep reading. The second purpose of the introduction is to tell the reader what you are going to write about.

Example:

CAW! CAW! A crow flies over my yard calling to friends in the distance. I’m standing on my back deck in my bare feet. Can you believe it? Just last week I was shoveling snow and now my deck is bare and I’m standing on it watching the crow fly to the top of a nearby tree. He seems to be as excited about the arrival of spring as I am. After so many cold days and snow storms I am really looking forward to warm, sunny days and planting in my flower garden. It won’t be long now because I see the bare ground poking through the rotting snow banks.

**Paragraph 2**

**What are the signs that spring is here?**

This paragraph should be 5 sentences long, at least. Remember to give lots of detail so that the reader can imagine and picture what you are saying. Don’t just say, “The snow is melting.” Explain it so I can picture it. “Long streams of dirty water run from under the snow bank and wind their way towards the road.” “Drip, drip, drip comes the water off the roof” “ The ground is soggy and I sink when I walk.”

Try to use interesting describing words. Think of what you see, hear, smell, feel. All of these ideas will help you write your paragraph.

Example:

 Long streams of dirty water run from under the snow bank, down my driveway and wind their way toward the street. The little girl next door is out in her polka-dot rubber boots jumping in the puddles and laughing. I hear her shrill laugh as she splashes her face. I want to go out and splash with her, but I don’t have rubber boots. I open the window and my nose twitches. There is an awful smell coming from my flower beds. It smells like dog poop! I know it is the smell of old, wet ground. That is one of things I don’t like about spring, that terrible poopy smell.

**Paragraph 3**

**What I Like to do in the Spring**

In this paragraph explain the types of things you like to do in the spring that you couldn’t do over the winter. Maybe you are anxious to get your bike out, or play road hockey with friends. Maybe you can’t wait to go fishing, or play with a new skipping rope. Maybe you can’t wait for Easter.

Remember to use lots of detail and descriptive words in this paragraph so that the reader will want to do the things you talk about.

Example:

 The warmer days and the bright sunshine make me anxious to work in my garden. I will need to wait for the snow to melt before I can rake and prepare my beds for planting. I’ll try to help it along by slipping on my winter boots and grabbing the shovel. I start to shovel snow off the beds and on to the driveway to melt. I’m sinking through the snow! Oh no! I just got snow down my boots! Yuck! I think I’d better forget the shoveling and go for a walk down the street. This time of year everyone is out, happy to soak in the warming rays of the sun. I visit with neighbors and throw a stick for Charlie, my neighbor’s dog. He loves to play fetch and he thinks I’m his best friend. Woof! I have to throw the stick again.

**Conclusion**

In this closing paragraph you want to leave the reader with something to think about. Revisit what you said in the introduction and make sure you have talked about all the things you mentioned in that opening. Remember to use detail and a great way to end the last sentence of your conclusion is using;

Onomatopiea

Question (?)

Exclamation (!)

Example:

 CAW! CAW! There goes my crow friend and he has some twigs in his mouth. He is going to build a nest somewhere in the woods behind my place. The sun is beating down on my back and I’m really warm. I take off my jacket and tie it around my waste. Naturally I won’t be able to go too long with my jacket off but it makes me even more anxious for the warm days to come when I can go outside in my bare arms, with my shorts on and wiggle my toes in the warm soil. Doesn’t this sunny, warm weather make you just crave an ice-cream cone?