



# Lesson Summary

# Teacher Guide: Apex Predators: Essay Writing

Understanding how to write a five-paragraph essay about apex predators will help you clearly communicate your ideas in future research papers and reports, just like scientists do when they share their findings about the natural world. Here's how you can help students learn it.

- 1. Start class with a brief Warm Up.** You can print and distribute this [Warm Up](#), or display this [Lesson Slide Deck](#).
- 2. Share the [Student Lesson](#), either digitally or on paper.** Students should:
  - a. Watch the video ( [ilesson.co](https://www.ilesson.co) , code = v8bo)** and take notes. Students can watch on their own devices, or you can [play this video in class](#).
  - b. Answer the Practice Questions with classmates.** You can use the provided [Answer Key](#) to help students check their work.
  - c. Complete the [Exit Ticket](#) before the end of class.** You can let students take this as soon as they are ready, or share this in the last few minutes of class.

## A few other notes:

- ★ If students finish early or want a challenge, you can share this [Extension Activity](#).
- ★ If it's helpful, you can display this [Lesson Slide Deck](#) during class.
- ★ For additional guidance, see these [Teaching Tips](#).

All linked resources are fully editable, so please feel free to adjust them as you see fit.

✨ **Enjoy the lesson!** ✨

This lesson was built using [Insta-Lesson](#), and edited by the teacher to meet their learners' needs. Aligns with 4th Grade grade standards for Apex Predators: Essay Writing.

 Warm Up

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Warm Up: Apex Predators: Essay Writing

Think about your favorite animal. Is it an apex predator, or does it have predators of its own? What role do you think apex predators play in their ecosystems?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Warm Up: Apex Predators: Essay Writing

Think about your favorite animal. Is it an apex predator, or does it have predators of its own? What role do you think apex predators play in their ecosystems?



Exit Ticket

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exit Ticket: Apex Predators: Essay Writing

**Learning Objective:** I can write a five-paragraph essay about apex predators with an introduction, three supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.

Write a five-paragraph essay about tigers as apex predators. Your essay should include an introduction, three paragraphs with supporting details from the video, and a conclusion. Use information from the video about why tigers are important, what threatens them, and what can be done to help them.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exit Ticket: Apex Predators: Essay Writing

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# Answer Key

# Answer Key: Apex Predators: Essay Writing

## **Key Points (Fill In the Blanks)**

1. Tigers are apex **\*\*predators\*\*** in the food chain; their extinction would **\*\*unbalance\*\*** the ecosystem.
2. Two main reasons for the extinction of tigers are loss of **\*\*habitat\*\*** and **\*\*poaching\*\***.
3. The Save Tiger Project was launched in 1973 to **\*\*stabilize\*\*** the population of **\*\*tigers\*\***.

## **Lesson Practice**

- Q1. The introduction introduces the topic, grabs the reader's attention, and states the essay's main point or thesis.
- Q2. Apex predators play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of their ecosystems.
- Q3. The conclusion should restate the main idea, summarize the key points from the supporting paragraphs, and leave the reader with a final thought about apex predators.

## **Exit Ticket:**

Introduction: Introduce tigers as apex predators and state the essay's purpose.

Paragraph 2: Explain why tigers are important for the food chain and ecosystem, using information from the video about the effects of tiger extinction.

Paragraph 3: Describe the threats to tigers, using details from the video about habitat loss and poaching.

Paragraph 4: Discuss what can be done to save tigers, referencing the Save Tiger project and the need to protect their habitat.

Conclusion: Summarize the importance of saving tigers and restate the main points of the essay.





## Extension Activity

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Apex Predator Advocacy Campaign**

Now that you're experts on apex predators, it's time to put your knowledge to work! Imagine that several apex predator species are endangered due to misconceptions and fear. Create a persuasive campaign to change public perception and advocate for their protection. Your campaign should include a slogan, a visual element (poster or digital image), and a short speech or script highlighting the ecological importance of these magnificent creatures and dispelling common myths.



## Teaching Tips

## Teaching Tips: Apex Predators: Essay Writing

**1) Plan for Anticipated Challenges.** Here are a few ways students may struggle, and how you can respond:

- **Understanding Apex Predators:** If students struggle to grasp the concept of apex predators and their role in ecosystems, then consider starting with a brainstorming session where students list animals they know and then categorize them based on their position in the food chain, emphasizing the characteristics that define an apex predator (e.g., no natural predators, top of the food chain)., Start with a brainstorming session where students list animals they know and then categorize them based on their position in the food chain, emphasizing the characteristics that define an apex predator (e.g., no natural predators, top of the food chain).
- **Essay Structure:** If students have difficulty structuring a five-paragraph essay, especially in organizing their supporting arguments, then consider providing a detailed outline template with specific prompts for each paragraph (introduction with thesis statement, three body paragraphs each focusing on a different aspect of apex predators, and a conclusion summarizing the main points)., Provide a detailed outline template with specific prompts for each paragraph (introduction with thesis statement, three body paragraphs each focusing on a different aspect of apex predators, and a conclusion summarizing the main points).
- **Finding Credible Sources:** If students struggle to find and cite credible information about apex predators, then consider dedicating class time to researching reputable sources (e.g., scientific journals, documentaries from trusted organizations, educational websites) and demonstrating proper citation methods using a consistent style guide (e.g., MLA, APA)., Dedicate class time to researching reputable sources (e.g., scientific journals, documentaries from trusted organizations, educational websites) and demonstrating proper citation methods using a consistent style guide (e.g., MLA, APA).

**2) Modify for Multilingual Learners.** To make this lesson more accessible:

- **Pre-Teach Key Vocabulary with Visuals:** Before reading or writing, explicitly teach key vocabulary related to apex predators (e.g., predator, prey, ecosystem, carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, food chain, food web, trophic level). Use visuals such as pictures, diagrams, or short video clips to illustrate the meaning of each word. Provide definitions in simple language and, if possible, in students' native languages. Encourage students to create their own visual glossaries or vocabulary notebooks.
- **Provide Sentence Frames and Essay Templates:** Offer sentence frames to help students structure their sentences and paragraphs. For example: "An apex predator is important because...", "One example of an apex predator is...", "This shows that..." Provide a basic essay template with clear headings for the introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion. The template should include prompts for each section, such as "In this paragraph, I will explain..." or "In conclusion, I have shown that..."
- **Think-Pair-Share with Native Language Support:** Incorporate Think-Pair-Share activities where students first think about a question related to apex predators (e.g., "Why are apex predators important for an ecosystem?") individually. Then, they pair up with a classmate to discuss their ideas. Allow students to discuss in their native languages if they share a common language. Finally, each pair shares their ideas with the whole class in English. Encourage students to use visuals or gestures to support their explanations.

**3) Add Creative Activities.** In addition to the practice contained in this lesson, here are a few things you can do to spark students' engagement and creativity. Where possible, students should complete these activities in small groups, with teacher support:

- ★ Activity 1: Apex Predator Debate - Small groups are assigned an apex predator and debate its importance in its ecosystem, structuring their arguments as paragraphs for a potential essay.
- ★ Activity 2: Paragraph Puzzle - Groups receive mixed-up sentences from a five-paragraph essay about apex predators and must assemble them into coherent paragraphs, focusing on topic sentences and supporting details.
- ★ Activity 3: Essay Outline Creation - Each group creates a detailed outline for a five-paragraph essay on a specific apex predator, including a thesis statement, topic sentences, and supporting evidence for each paragraph.