

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Conclusions for Informational Text

Read the text below. Then, follow the steps to write a conclusion.

Have you ever eaten fungus? You might have and not even known it! Fungi are living organisms that are all around us. While some can be dangerous, many types of fungi have extraordinary abilities that we can use to produce our favorite foods and even life-saving medicines.

If you love pizza, then you have fungi to thank. Bread and cheese are both made with fungi. Yeast, the fungus used to make bread, helps dough rise to make it fluffy. P. Roqueforti is one of the many types of fungi that is used to make cheese. Portabello mushrooms are another popular type of edible fungi.

Fungi has also been used in medicine. In fact, the most commonly used antibiotic is made from a fungus called Penicillium. It was discovered by mistake when a scientist named Alexander Fleming left an experiment out in his lab while he was away on vacation. When he returned, he found a blue fungus growing on his petri dishes. The fungus, Penicillium, had stopped the bacteria in the petri dishes from growing. Now it used all over the world to save lives.

For billions of years, fungi has had an important job in nature. It breaks down dead plant material and turns it into soil. Without fungi, most dead matter wouldn't be able to biodegrade, or break down, and we would be walking around in a big mess of leaves and other discarded plant material.

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Steps

1. Read the **introduction**. Writers often use a hook, like a question or surprising statement, to get their readers interested in the topic.
 - Underline the hook in the introduction paragraph.
2. Read the **body** of the text. Writers use the body to tell their reader important facts about the topic.
 - Highlight one key word or phrase in each body paragraph that you would want a reader to remember.
3. Write a conclusion paragraph. Writers use the conclusion to remind readers what they've learned and excite them about the topic.
 - Briefly remind readers of the main facts from the body, without restating them in exact words.
 - Make a connection back to the hook in the introduction paragraph.
 - Add a memorable ending that will make a reader think more about the topic.