

ELA

Second Grade

Schoolwide - Writing

Nonfiction



Learning From Gail Gibbons

What we learned about Gail Gibbons as a writer	What we learned about Gail Gibbons as an illustrator	What we learned about Gail Gibbons as a person

The more you read and learn about Gail Gibbons, the more things you can add!

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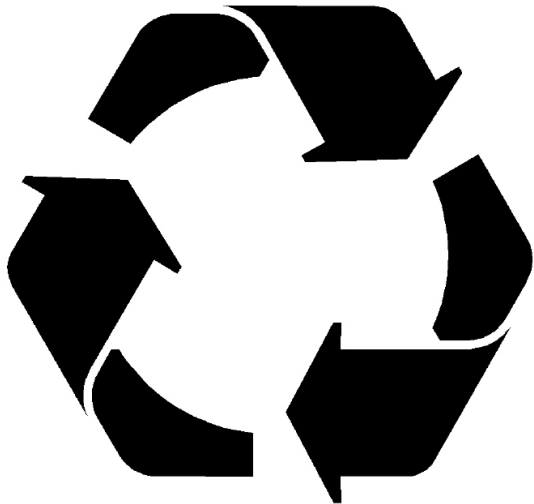
Word Map

Word:

RECYCLE

What it means:

Picture of the word:



Word in a sentence:

Word Map

Word:

What it means:

Picture of the word:

Word in a sentence:

Is It a Primary Source or a Secondary Source?

1 Primary Source

The author got the information by . . .



OBSERVATION



EXPERIENCE



INTERVIEWING SOMEONE

1 Primary Source

The author got the information by . . .



OBSERVATION



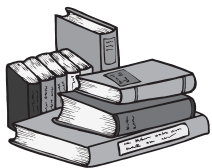
EXPERIENCE



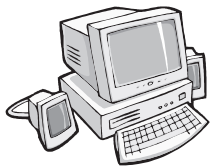
INTERVIEWING SOMEONE

2 Secondary Source

*The author got the information from
someone else by . . .*



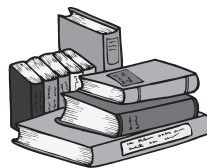
**READING BOOKS
OR ARTICLES**



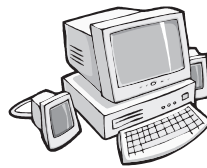
USING THE COMPUTER

2 Secondary Source

*The author got the information from
someone else by . . .*



**READING BOOKS
OR ARTICLES**



USING THE COMPUTER

What We Can Learn by Observing

I observed _____

Looks:

Sounds:

Action taking place:

What We Can Learn by Observing

I observed _____

Looks:

Sounds:

Action taking place:

What We Can Learn by Observing

I observed _____

Looks:

Sounds:

Action taking place:

What We Can Learn by Observing

I observed _____

Looks:

Sounds:

Action taking place:

Name: _____

Date: 013

Gail Gibbons: Double-Entry Journal

Some things I learned from Gail Gibbons...

Some thoughts, illustrations, or questions I have about my world...

[illegible][illegible]

Name: _____

Date: _____ 014 _____

Gail Gibbons: Double-Entry Journal


Some things I learned from Gail Gibbons...

Some thoughts, illustrations, or questions I have about my world...

[illegible][illegible]


The “How” in the Everyday

Something I See Every Day	What I Wonder About It (How?, Why?, When?, Where?, Who?, What?, Does?)



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Asking Questions About What Excites Me!

017

Topic That Excites Me	Questions I Could Ask About It
Rain	How is rain made? Does rain help us? Why do we sometimes not get enough rain? Is too much rain bad? What can rain be used for? Does rain have a color? Why can some people “smell” rain?
Building skyscrapers	How are buildings made? What is used to make skyscrapers? Who designs them? How much do they cost? How long does it take? When was the first skyscraper built?

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Strong Questions vs. Weak Questions



Directions: Circle



if it is a strong question. Circle



if it is a weak question.

1.



Where do bats live?

2.



Do they fly?

3.



How do they fly?

4.



How big are they?

5.



Why is the number of bats decreasing in many areas?

6.



Can they help people?

7.



How do they help people?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Activity Ideas

Activity	Sketch	What I Want to Know About It
Activity	Sketch	What I Want to Know About It
Activity	Sketch	What I Want to Know About It

020

Questions to Help Select a Topic

1. Which ideas really interest me?
2. Which ideas could I create an illustration or a chart for?
3. Which ideas am I curious about—how it works or what it does?
4. Which ideas would other people be most interested in?
5. Which ideas could I find more information on?
6. Which ideas keep coming up whenever I make lists of things in my Writer's Notebook?

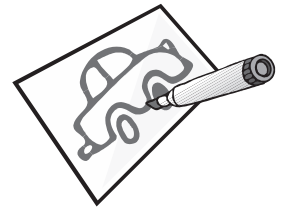
Selecting a Nonfiction Topic

Put a check in each box below as you select your topic.

☐ I am really interested in the topic.



☐ I can draw pictures about the topic.



☐ I have questions about the topic and can look for the answers.



My Topic Is: _____

Collecting Like Gail Gibbons

1. Reading and Taking Notes

2. Talking to Experts (Interview)

3. Visiting or Observing

4. Illustrations or Photographs

Collecting Like Gail Gibbons

1. Reading and Taking Notes

2. Talking to Experts (Interview)

3. Visiting or Observing

4. Illustrations or Photographs

What I Know and What I Need to Find Out

My Topic: _____

What Do I Know?	What Do I Need to Find Out?	Where Can I Get This Information?

What I Know and What I Need to Find Out

My Topic: _____

What Do I Know?	What Do I Need to Find Out?	Where Can I Get This Information?

Questions for the Expert!

1. What is the most important thing I need to know about this topic?

2. What is the most interesting thing that I think there is about this topic?

3. Who are the people I think are experts on this topic?

4. What questions should I ask them?

a. What made you become interested in this topic?

b. What kind of work do you do with this topic?

c. How long have you been involved with this topic?

d. What do you think is the most important thing people should know about this topic?

Name: _____ Date: _____ 029

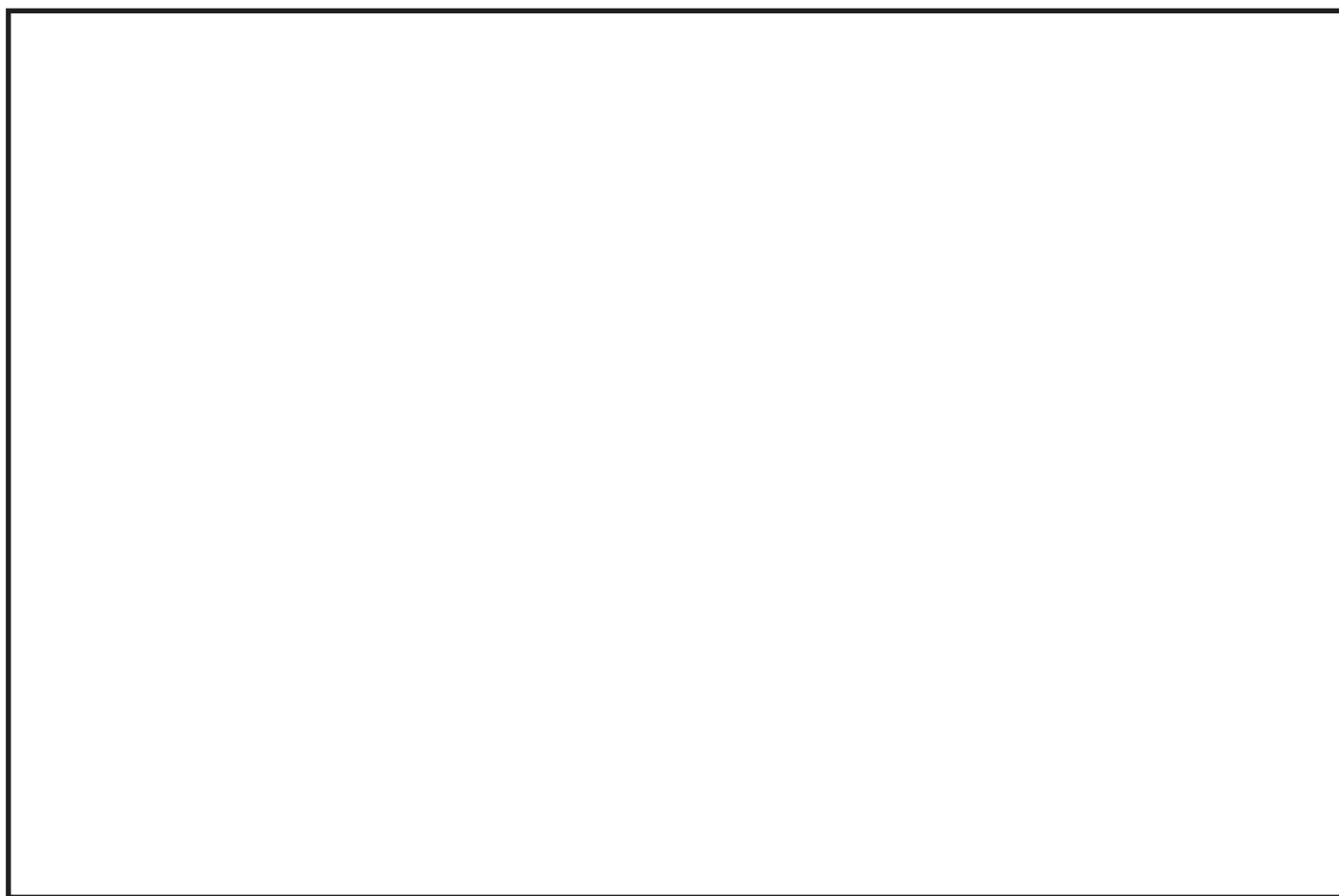
What Can I Illustrate?

My Topic: _____

One part of my topic that I can illustrate is _____

I will want to include the following caption and labels in my illustration:

My observational sketch:



My Observation Chart

My Topic Is: _____

What I can see when I look at my topic:

What my topic does:

How my topic affects things around it:

Are there smaller parts that make up my topic? What are they?

Does my topic make noises, have a smell, or feel a certain way?

I Have Lots of Notes!



- 1. Reread my Writer's Notebook.**
- 2. Circle information I want to include.**
- 3. Write and circle any new ideas that come to me.**

Questions to Help Us Draft

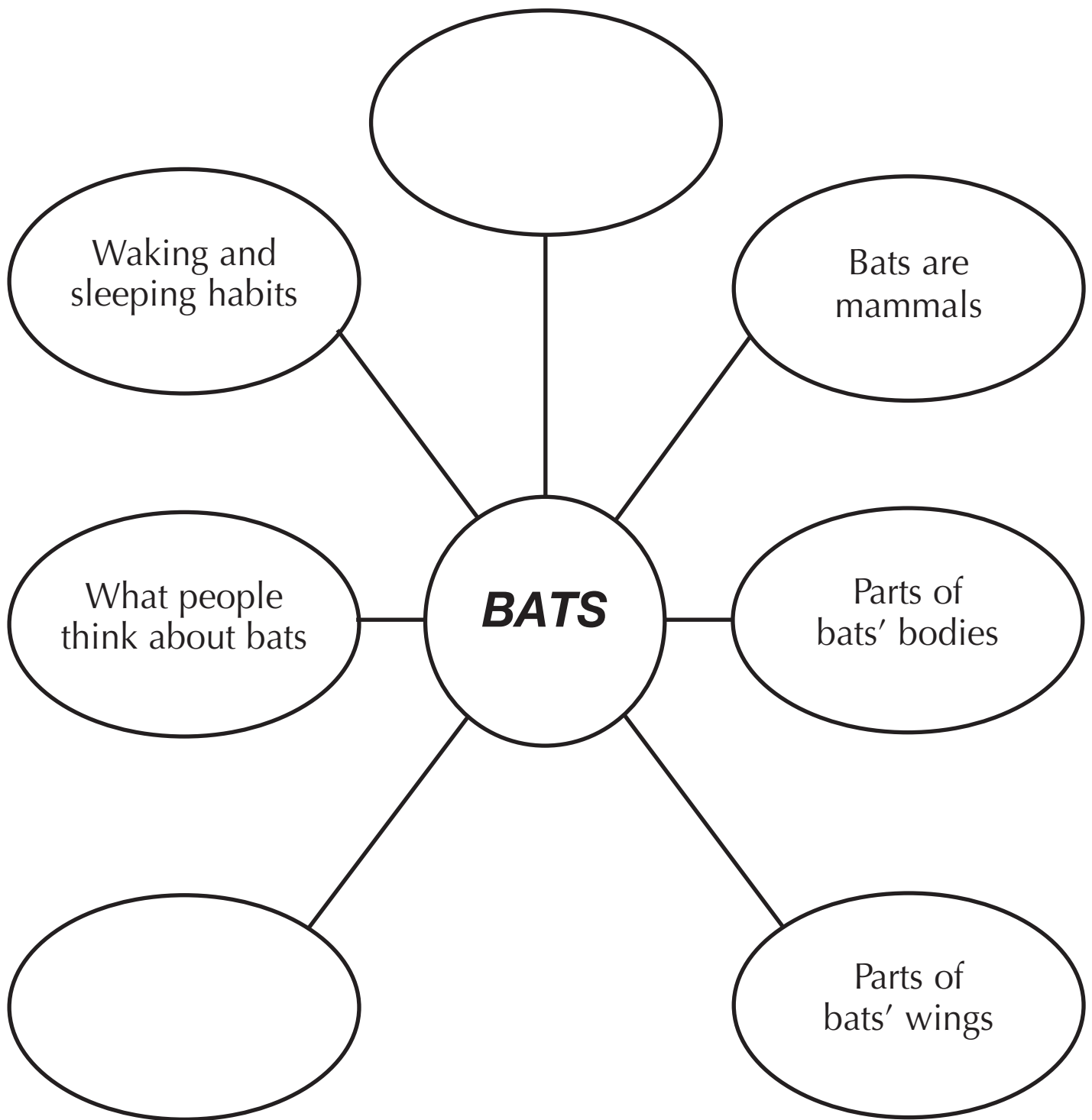
Do you think you have all the information you need? If not, where can you go to fill in gaps of information?

Did any new ideas come to you when you were circling your information? If so, what are they?

Were there some parts in your Writer's Notebook where you got confused? How can you clear this up?

What ideas or subtopics in your Writer's Notebook can you group together?

Web Outline for *Bats*



Name: _____ Date: _____

All-About or List Structure

Topic _____

Subtopic _____
•
•

Subtopic _____
•
•

Subtopic _____
•
•

Name: _____ Date: _____

All-About or List Structure

Topic _____

Subtopic _____
•
•

Subtopic _____
•
•

Subtopic _____
•
•

Name: _____ Date: _____

Narrative or How-To Structure



Name: _____ Date: _____

Narrative or How-To Structure



Name: _____ Date: _____

Organizing My Writing

Mentor Text	Structure	How I Know
<i>How a House Is Built</i>	How-to structure – introduces the topic and then changes to a “how-to” or step-by-step procedure	Starts by showing different houses and then tells us what we would do first, second, and so on
<i>Bats</i>	All-about structure – starts with living habits of bats and then moves to different categories or subtopics	Page 3 is about bats flying at night, and then the next page talks about how people have thought of bats. Then, she moves to the body parts and other categories.
<i>Zoo</i>	Narrative structure – follows a sequence of events from beginning to end	Follows the zoo when it opens in the morning until it closes at night
My Topic:	My Structure:	How I will show this is my structure:

Why I think this structure will be great for this topic:

Organizing My Text

Page 1	Page 2
Page 3	Page 4
Page 5	Page 6

What do I need to add? _____

How many pages will I have? _____

My text structure is: _____

Labels:

- Do you have an illustration that would benefit from some labels?
- What could you label?
- Where would you put the labels?

Captions:

- Do you have a scene or event that would be great to illustrate?
- If so, what kind of caption could you include?
- Do you have a photograph to use?
- If so, what caption would you draft to go with it?

Charts/Graphs:

- Do you have some charts or graphs that you could use in your draft?
- Do you need to add information to the chart or graph to help your readers?

Additional Endnotes for a Concluding Section of “Did You Know?,” “Fun Facts!,” or “What Can You Do?”:

- Do you have extra information you collected that you could place at the back of your text like Gail does?
- Could you include the history of your topic, rules of your topic, or other things that are related to your topic?

Name: _____ Date: _____

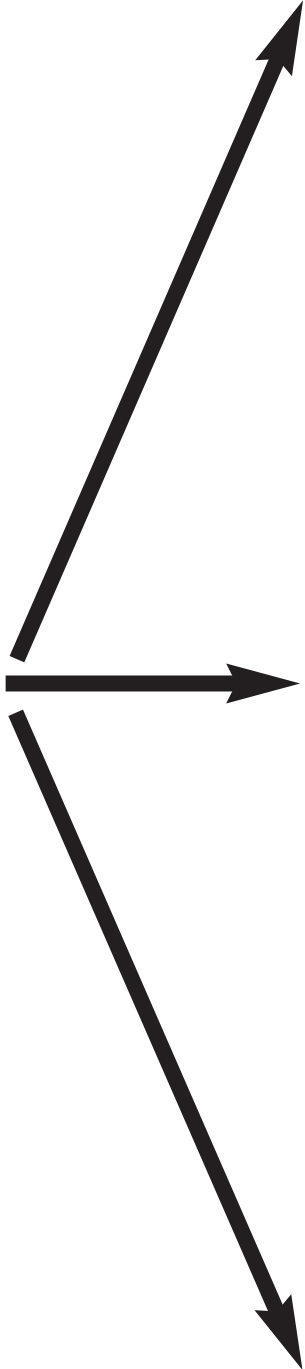
Interesting Introductions

Ways to introduce your topic and engage your readers:

Title	Introduction Technique and Example	Give It a Try
<i>Recycle</i>	Emphasize your point and use a question: More and more garbage! . . . Garbage trucks come to pick it up, but where does all this trash go?	
<i>Sun Up, Sun Down</i>	Describe what is happening (action) and use first person: The sun wakes me up. It rises in the east and shines through my window.	
<i>Nature's Green Umbrella</i>	Describe your topic using sensory details: Green leaves, wet leaves. The air is hot and steamy. Everything is moist. The skies darken and it begins to rain. It pours on nature's green umbrella, the tropical rain forest.	

Topic: _____

Possible Introductions



Question (?)

Me

**Description
(5 senses)**

Thinking About Our Writing Voice



Pay attention to the differences in how books are written.

Sometimes writers write with a very friendly or informal voice, and other times they write with a serious or formal voice. Sometimes writers have both voices in their writing!



Examine the specifics.

What techniques bring out your voice?

- Are sentences really long and full of facts?
- What kinds of words are used? Are they general, descriptive, or content-specific?
- Are there lots of exclamation points or other punctuation that sets a mood or creates tension?
- What about the pictures? Do they look fun and friendly, or do they look serious and more realistic?





Find your own voice.

Writers who include voice in their writing use it to make the most of their topic and to help engage readers. For some writers, their strength is their ability to describe; for others, it might be their use of humor. How do you feel about your topic? How do you want your readers to feel about the topic? What type of mood do you want to create?

Thinking About My Voice

Directions: Check off the column that best tells about your “voice.” Explain your thinking by giving an example from your piece.

Topic: _____

	Friendly and Personal  Tigers are amazing!	Serious and Informative  Tigers are the largest wild cats in the world.
My sentences are . . .		
My use of punctuation is . . .		
My illustrations are . . .		

My “voice” is _____.

Helping My Readers

What I Need to Consider When Revising My Draft



Do I have words related to my topic that readers may not know? Can I add definitions?



Do I have a place where an illustration might help readers understand what I am saying?



Do I have a place where I should add more details to my sentences?



Do I have areas where I might need to add several small illustrations instead of one large one?



Do I have a lot of terms or phrases that I should define in the back in one place (a Glossary)?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Partner's Name: _____

Revision Suggestions

Topic: _____

Here are some suggestions to make your writing even better!

Add more details about _____

Give a definition for the word _____

Draw a picture to show _____

Label the picture of _____

Ending Punctuation Marks

Every sentence you compose must have one of the following kinds of ending punctuation.

Period (.) – The period ends a sentence and completes a thought.

Exclamation point (!) – The exclamation point shows a strong feeling or expresses amazement or a command.

Question mark (?) – Use a question mark when you want to ask readers a question or if you are posing a question that you know the answer to.

Old Sentence With Old Punctuation	New Sentence With New Punctuation

Checking for Clarity

Proofreading List	Task Complete
I checked for misspelled words.	
I used capital letters correctly.	
I used ending punctuation correctly.	
I wrote in complete sentences.	
I wrote neatly.	
I introduced my topic and grabbed my readers' attention from the start.	
I included a concluding statement or section that makes sense and wraps things up.	
I included illustrations where they make sense and to develop my points.	

Adding a Dedication & Acknowledgments

The Dedication: What to Think About

- Is there someone special who got me interested in this topic?
- Is there someone related to this topic whom I admire?
- Is there a group of people who are related to this topic whom I want to honor?

The Acknowledgments: What to Think About

- Who are the people who helped you with your information?
- Is there anyone you relied on to help you complete the work, such as parents, relatives, teachers, experts in the fields, or a librarian?

Dedication

My work will be dedicated to _____

because _____

Acknowledgments

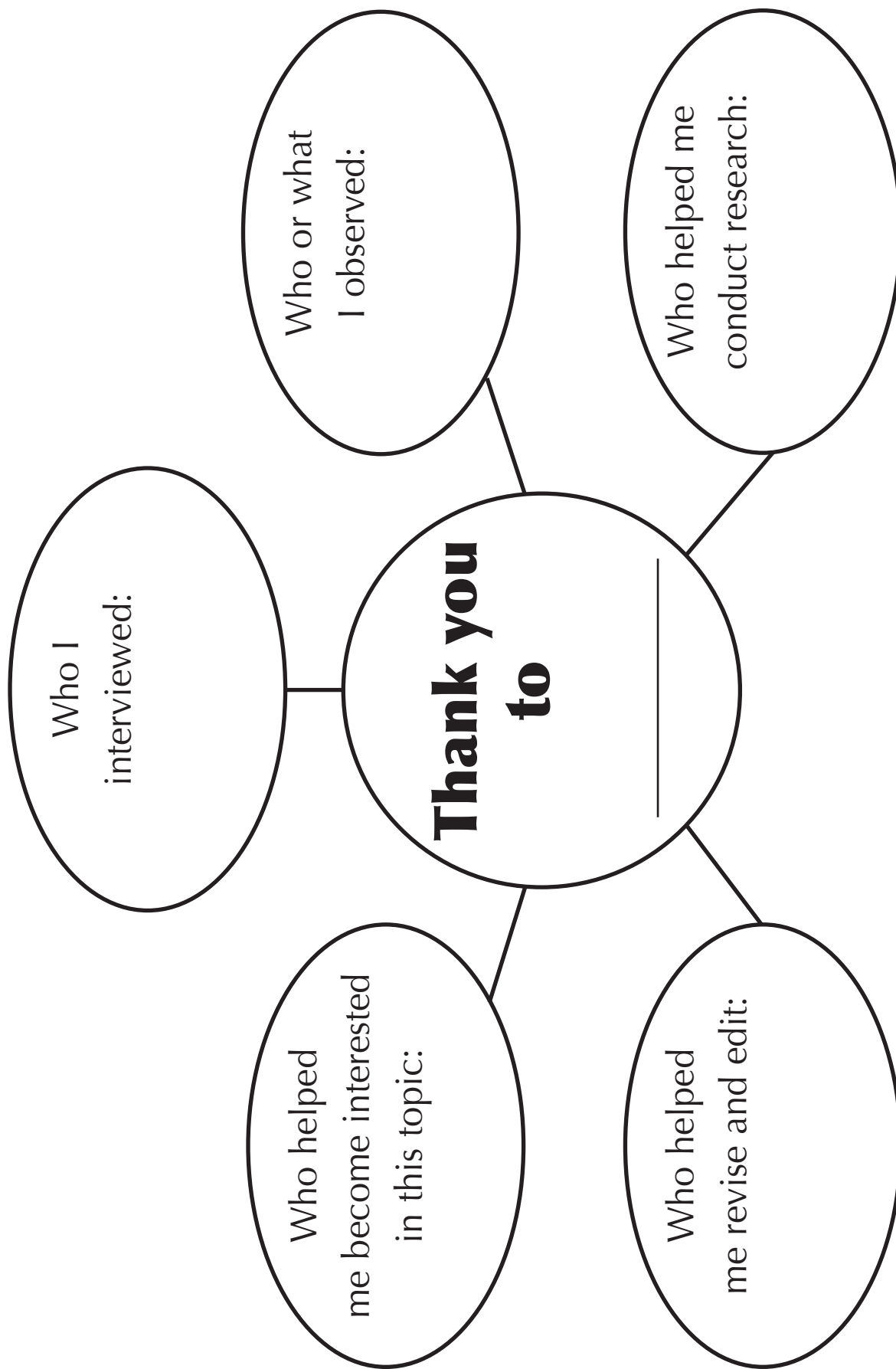
I would like to acknowledge _____

for _____

Transfer your answers above to your new Dedication and Acknowledgments pages, and include them with your finished work!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Special Thanks



Reflecting on My Work

Think about what you have learned during our Gail Gibbons Author Study. Finish each sentence to reflect on your experiences as a writer.

1. What I like the most about Gail Gibbons's writing is _____

because _____

2. I tried to model my writing after Gail's by _____

3. My favorite part of my finished piece is _____

because _____

4. The hardest part of this unit of study was _____

because _____

5. What I noticed about myself as a writer as I read through my work is _____