

Writing Essentials: Genre-Based Writing Instruction

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Help students incorporate the most critical, genre-specific ingredients into their own writing.

- PART 1: Prioritize the "info."
- PART 2: Organize by genre.
- PART 3: Persuade & argue.
- PART 4: Note narrative non-negotiables.

Plan informative-writing experiences.

Understand the expectations.

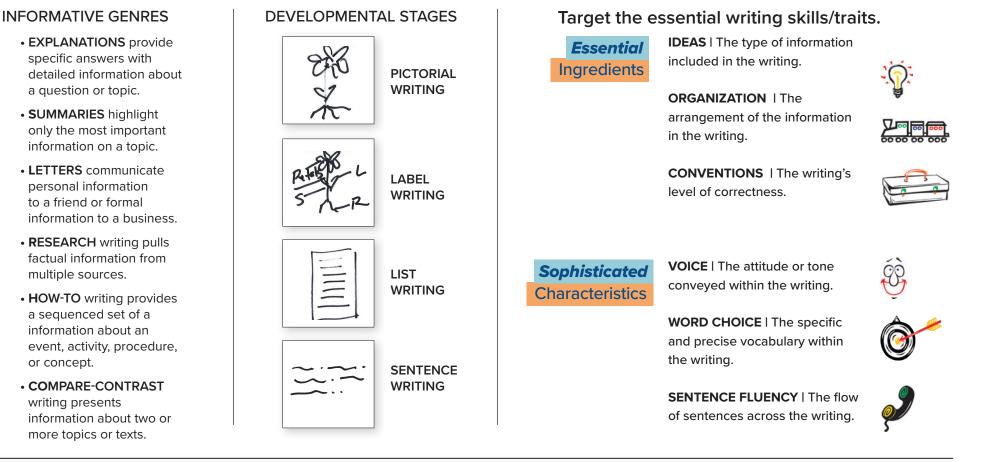
COMMON CORE W2 | INDIANA W3.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

PURPOSE | TO INFORM

Give the reader facts about a topic; to clarify or explain something.

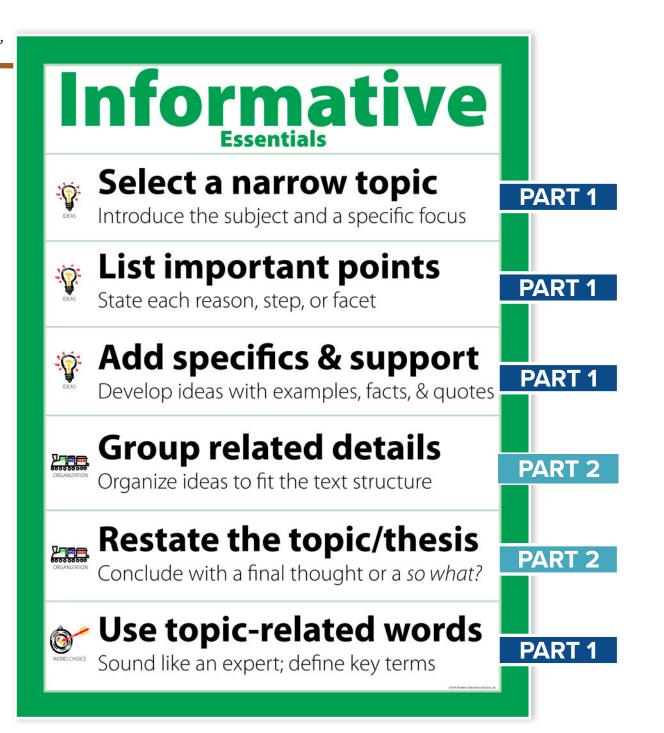




Target essential skills.

STANDARDS VERBIAGE

- Introduce a topic.
- Convey accurate information.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- Group related information.
- Link ideas with appropriate transitions.
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary.
- Provide a concluding statement or section.



Identify areas of expertise.



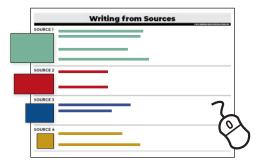
Demonstrate knowledge about texts and topics.

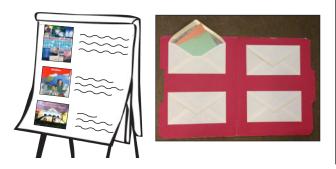
1. Write about texts.

Gather
 information
 from provided
 sources.



• Keep track of *which* source provided *what* information.





2. Write about topics.

• Consider topics rooted in background knowledge.

COLOR LISTS LOCATION Trings that are red. Trings in a de Trings that are blue. Trings in a le Trings that are green. Trings in a kit Trings that are orange. Trings in a red Trings that are vellow. Trings in your Trings that are purle. Trings in your Trings that are bork. Trings in your	assroom. Thing edroom. Thing	gs that are big.	MATH LISTS Things that are round.
Things that are brown. Things in the o	r desk. Thing r backpack. Thing r car/van/truck. Thing	gs that are soft. gs that are tall. gs that are short. gs that are loud.	Things that are square. Things that are triangular. Types of shapes. Types of coins. Days of the week. Months of the year.
Things that are white. SEASONAL LISTS Things to wear in the summer. Things to wear in the winter. Things to do outside in summer. Things to do outside in summer. Things to do outside in summer. Things to eat in the summer.	playground. Thing grocery store. Thing library. Thing beach. Thing Is on a farm. Thing	gs that are cold. gs that are wet. gs that are dry. gs that are smooth. gs that are rough.	SOCIAL STUDIES LISTS People in my family. Trachers in the school. People in the community. Things in a dettor's office. Things in a dettist's office. Things/Holidays people celebrate.

• Write about information rooted in visuals, observations, and experiences.

Provide multiple images on a topic. List what is learned from reading the photographs.

Recall learned information based on photographs (e.g., field trip, guest speaker, science activity, etc.). Generate lists of observable details during an experience (e.g., outdoor lab, field trip, science activity, etc.).

SCIENCE LISTS

Types of insects. Types of animals

Types of weather

Parts of the body. Parts of plants.

Types of fruits. Things that float.

Things that sink

Things that fall.

Things that fly

Types of vegetables

Types of animal homes/habitats

Things that live in the ocean

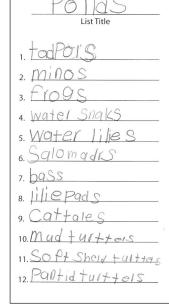




fire fire helmet

The fire helmet protects my head. I need the subpenders to hold up my pants. Fire pants have pockets for tools.

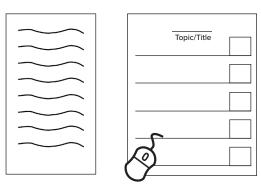




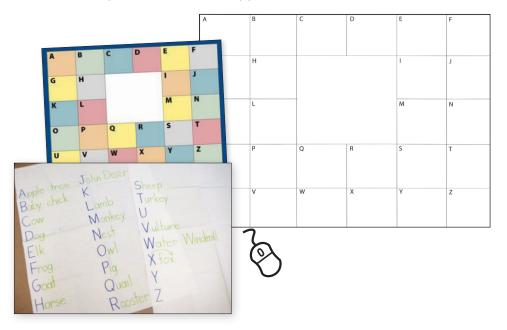
List the facts.

Include the important.

• Teach grocery-list pre-writing.



• Include the alphabet for added support.





🔅 List important points

State each reason, step, or facet

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

Explain the facets of a teacher's life/the teaching profession.

PRE-WRITE: List important information.

Clarify the goal.

Define listy versus developed.

Depict "developed" visually.

NOT THE GOAL	THE GOAL	
• Long & listy.	 Long & developed. 	
 Important points are mentioned & provide a broad or general understanding of a topic. 	 Important points are revealed & then developed with specific details to thoroughly explain the topic. 	





Dim ideas lack information. Add details to each idea in order to brighten it up.

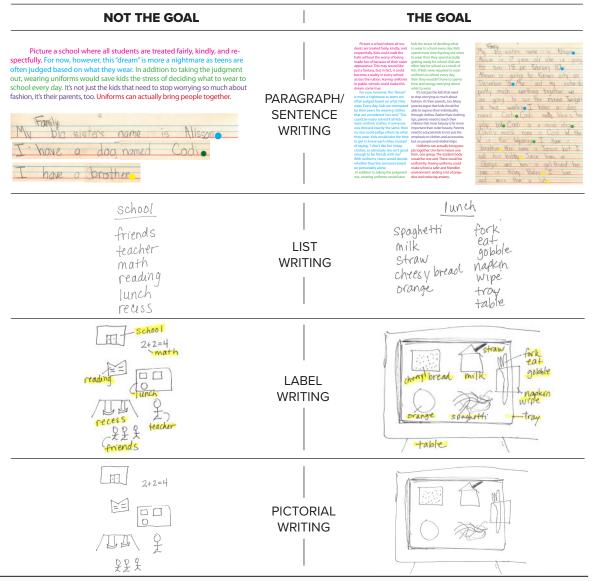




Hold up each table-top idea with sentence-legs of support.



Expect idea development in every writing stage.





Expand on the list of facts.



Add specifics & support

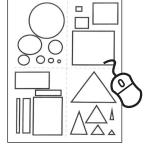
Develop ideas with examples, facts, & quotes

Provide more specifics.

Tell more about the "who" or "what."

- Physical description, body shape, proportion, color, clothing
- Personality, habits, gestures, etc.
- Actions, reactions, choices, decisions

PICTORIAL WRITERS include accurate and trueto-life details.



Tell more about the "where."



- Geography: city, state, country, etc.
- Specific location: inside, outside, in a vehicle, etc.
- Close-up details: objects in the environment, background, habitat
- Mood: feelings, attitude

Tell more about the "when."



• Time of day: 10 a.m., noon, after lunch, at bedtime, the following day, 4 hours later





- following day, 4 hours late • Time of year: summer, tornado, hunting season,
- Thanksgiving, first day of school, February, etc.
- Timeline: present day, day in the past, futuristic, a particular era, etc.

PICTORIAL WRITERS include accurate and true-to-life details in the background of drawings.

Tell more about when and where with a prepositional phrase.

PRE POSITION

aboard	against	aside from	behind	beyond	for	near	opposite	since	under
about	along	at	below	by	from	of	out	through	underneath
above	among	away from	beneath	down	in	off	outside	throughout	until
across	apart from	because of	besides	during	inside	onto	over	to	up
after	around	before	between	except	into	on top of	prior to	toward	with/without



PICTORIAL WRITERS draw objects closer together to represent their position in relationship to one another.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! Return to page 8

Expand on the list of facts.

Add specifics & support Develop ideas with examples, facts, & quotes

Provide more specifics.

Tell more with sensory details and description.



 SIGHT: color, shape, movement, function



 SMELL: scent, fragrance, odor, aromas



• TOUCH: texture, weight, temperature



• TASTE: sweet, sour, salty, rancid, flavor



• SOUND: music, whispering/shouting, weather, onomatopoeia

ICONS

• DESCRIPTIVE ATTRIBUTES:

size	taste
color	function
shape	location
movement	habitat
symmetry	direction
texture	orientation
number	state
composition	temperature
consistency	weight
medium	age
smell	special features



include sound-effect words next to objects in the pictures.

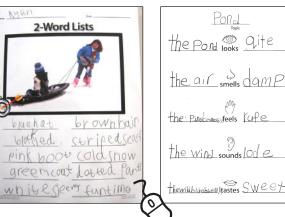


LABEL & LIST WRITERS include adjectives in front of nouns.

PICTORIAL WRITERS include

close-up details to communicate texture, smell, taste, and sound.





Tell more with comparisons.

- Add -er or -est words: bigger, taller, kinder, the best, the worst, the oldest
- Add *like* details: The perfume smelled like a flower garden.
- Add *just like* details: The hilly highway was just like being on a roller coaster.
- Add *as* to create a simile: Her shirt was as tight as plastic wrap on tupperware.
- Add so _____ that phrase: Her story was so fabulous that I wish I'd written it!
- Add *reminds me of* phrase: Her house reminds me of a magazine photo. Everything is just so perfectly decorated!
- Add a metaphor: The garden is a kaleidoscope of color.
- Add a real-life situation or scenario.
- Add a hypothetical or pretend situation.



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Expand on the list of facts.



Provide more specifics.

Tell more with an example.

• For example

- For instance
- One kind
- One type
- Like
- Such as

Tell more with numbers and statistics.

Date Weight

Length

Age

• Time

Speed

Quantity

Temperature

Elapsed time

- Height
 - Volume
 - Grade
 - Value
 - Frequency
- Code Model number

Percentage

Price

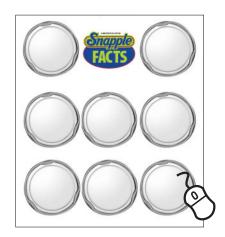
Score

- Identification number
- Part number





Add interest with surprising details.



Tell more with expert quotes.

- Expert opinion
- Personal testimony
- Eyewitness account
- Textual evidence



Tell what the quote or fact means.

 INTERPRET MEANING This means... ... in other words... DESCRIBE THE IMPRESSION This conveys... ... gives the impression ... This signifies... EXPLAIN IMPORTANCE This is important because... This causes... The impact of this is ...



Include precise language.



Tell more with name details.

- First and last names
- Title, position, occupation
- Brand name, company name
- Species, breed, classification, part
- Event, game
- Text title, publication, source

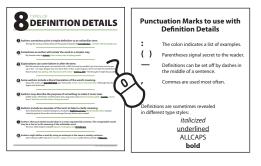






Tell more with definition details.

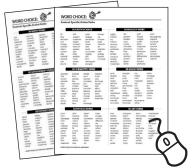
- Provide a formal definition.
- Offer an everyday explanation. This means...
 - That means...
 - Which means...
- Describe the literal translation.
- List synonyms or antonyms.



Tell more with action verbs.

List and incorporate action verbs that are associated with the topic.

Use topic-related words Sound like an expert; define key terms







people and objects in motion.





PICTORIAL & LABEL WRITERS add action words near "moving" objects.



Plan informative writing units.

1. TEACH writing versus assign writing.

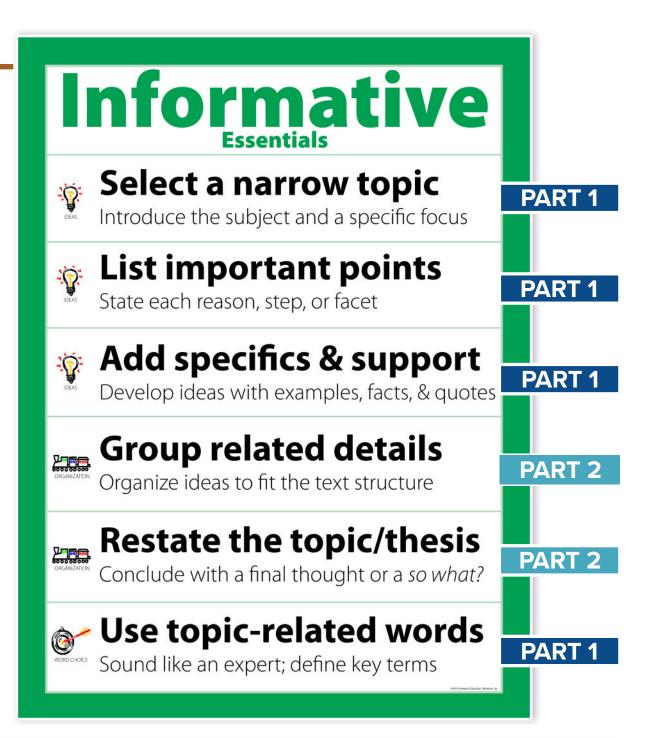
2. WRITE about topics and texts.

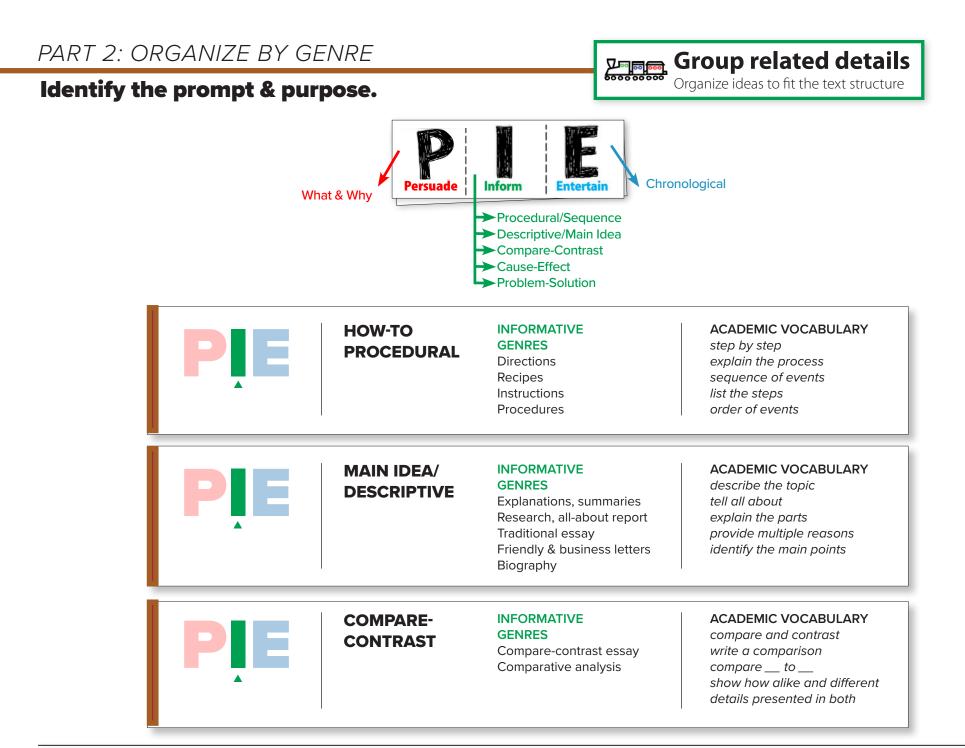
3. PRIORITIZE the trait of ideas.

Target essential skills.

STANDARDS VERBIAGE

- Introduce a topic.
- Convey accurate information.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- Group related information.
- Link ideas with appropriate transitions.
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary.
- Provide a concluding statement or section.





Recognize 3 ways to organize information.



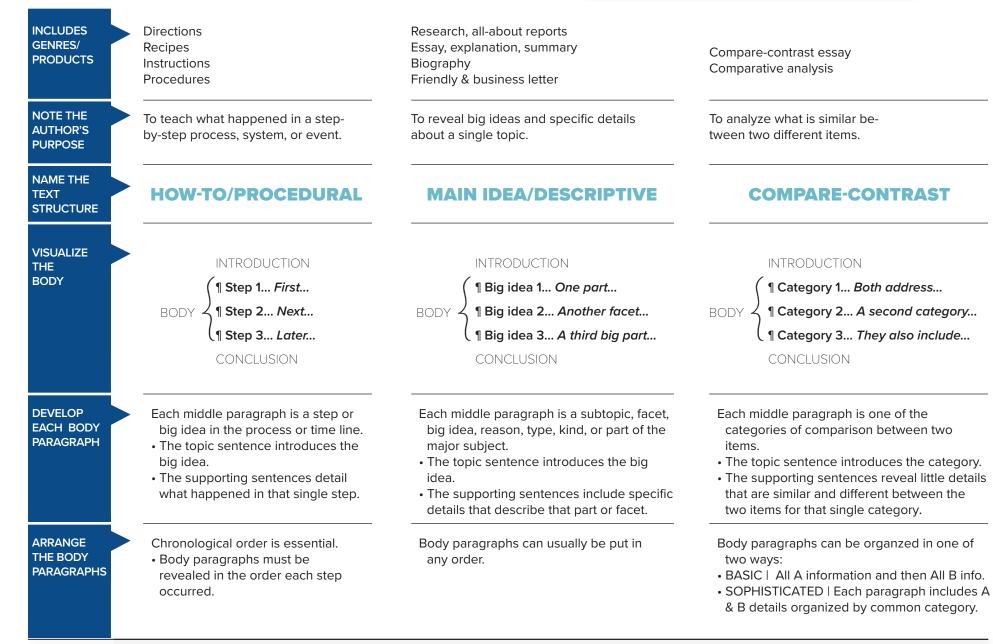
Tid Tur Exe	et coffee/water dy supplies Irn off technology ercise/Play orning work/Bell work	Use the restroom Open blinds Open door Collect assignment(s) Listen to announcements	Pass out supplies Shut door (because of noise) Provide answers/evidence from the tex Turn on technology Ask questions about the text	Socialize with peers Get materials for next class/subject to Gather belongings Take attendance Close blinds
PROMPT Explain of day from beginnin		PROMPT I Describe a school day.		MPT I Compare student tasks ose of a teacher.
TEXT STRUCT	TURF	TEXT STRU	CTURE	
How-To/Prod		Main Idea/D		mpare-Contrast
	cedural		escriptive Co	mpare the tasks students do at school to those of a teacher Tasks Teacher Tasks A CATEGORIES ITEM B Classroom
How-To/Proc	cedural	Main Idea/D	PROMPT I Con Student UTEM	mpare the tasks students do at school to those of a teacher Tasks Teacher Tasks A CATEGORIES ITEM B

SCHOOL-DAY EXAMPLES & GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

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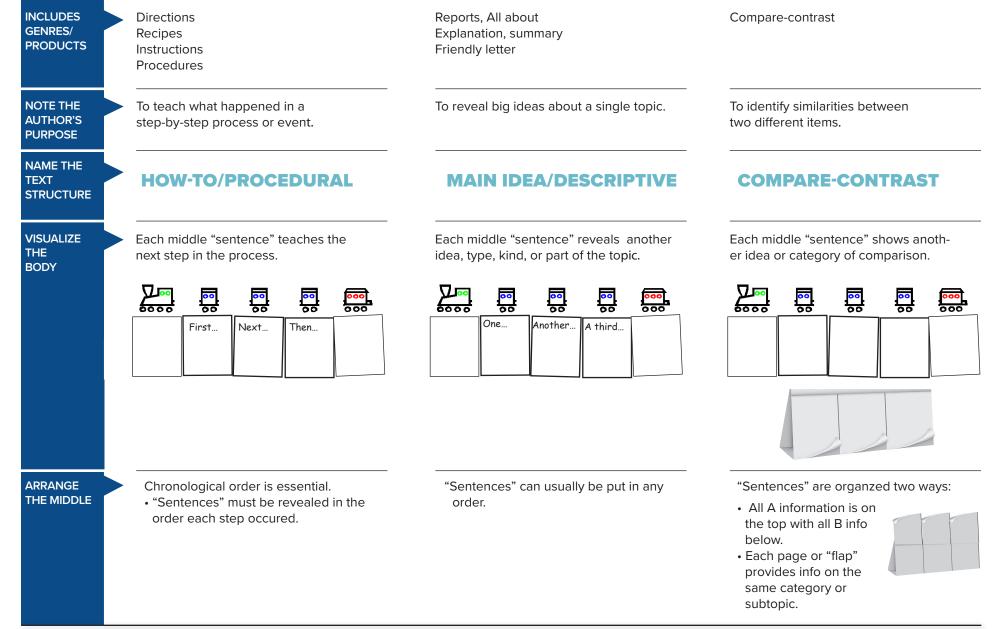
Teach genre characteristics | Grades 2-12



Teach genre characteristics | Grades PK-2

Group related details

Organize ideas to fit the text structure



Clarify the purpose of pre-writing.

Read the task/prompt to determine what kind of organization is needed.

Start with 2-step grocery listing.



Understand the purpose of single-step graphic organizers.

Group related details

Organize ideas to fit the text structure

- Offer students a visual form to follow.
- Explain the form behind each graphic



Adapt the Storyboard to fit all chronological texts.



Track the main ideas and details within a Dissected Web.



Adjust a T-Chart to fit various text structures.

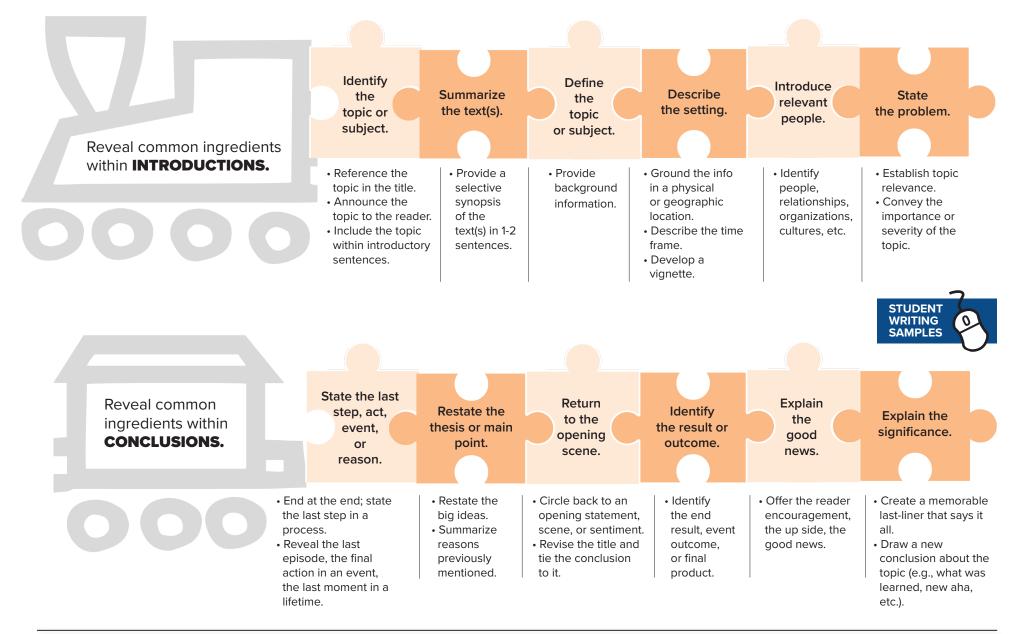
Teach optional ingredients.

Select a narrow topic

Introduce the subject & a specific focus

Restate the topic/thesis

Conclude with a final thought or so what?



Plan persuasive-writing experiences.

Understand the expectations.

COMMON CORE W1 | INDIANA W3.1

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

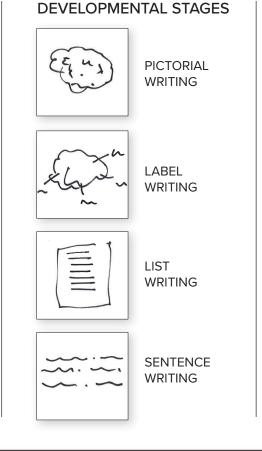
PURPOSE | TO ARGUE

Share feelings, opinions, or claims that are based on facts and evidence.



PERSUASIVE GENRES

- OPINIONS state a personal preference of a debatable topic (e.g., vote, survey, tweet, bumper sticker, mission statement, etc.).
- PERSUASIVES convey the writer's opinion of a debatable topic through explanation and evidence of his position (e.g., advertisement/ commercial, persuasive letters, recommendations, constructed responses, persuasive essays, etc.).
- ARGUMENTS convey the writer's opinion of a debatable topic through explanation and evidence of multiple sides (e.g., pro-con list, debate, infomercial, argumentative research/essay, etc.).
- EVALUATIONS are the writer's opinion on someone else's work (e.g., review, critique, comparative analysis, argumentative analysis, literary analysis).



Target the essential writing skills/traits.

Essential Ingredients

IDEAS | The type of information included in the writing.



ORGANIZATION | The arrangement of the information in the writing.



CONVENTIONS | The writing's level of correctness.



Sophisticated Characteristics

VOICE | The attitude or tone conveyed within the writing.

WORD CHOICE | The specific and precise vocabulary within the writing.

SENTENCE FLUENCY | The flow of sentences across the writing.





Target essential skills.

Persuasive Identify topic & position \hat{Q} Explain what you want or what you believe List many good reasons Provide solid support for why you are right **Organize key points** Order your reasons to end with your best **End with what you want** Tell readers what you expect them to do **Express your attitude** NOIGE Reveal your feelings & point of view Employ exact words Select precise words to convince the reader

STANDARDS VERBIAGE

- Introduce the topic or text.
- State an opinion/claim.
- Create an organizational structure; organize logically.
- Provide clear reasons with relevant evidence.
- Acknowledge alternate or opposing claims.
- Link/Connect opinion and reasons.
- Provide a concluding statement or section.
- Establish and maintain a formal style/objective tone.







Persuasive

Explain and support one perspective.

Argument Explain multiple perspectives but support one.

Things Wrong in the World

RULES TO CHANGE

THINGS

PROBLEMS TO F

Persuade with information.

Differentiate between informative topics and debatable ones.

• Clarify the author's purpose.



Reveal mentor text that expresses an opinion.

• LITERATURE | Identify character perspectives. What does character A think, believe, want, feel? How do you know? What does character B think, believe, want, feel? How do you know?



• INFORMATIONAL TEXT | Identify author perspectives.



Write about topics.

Traditional writing tasks were based on personal background knowledge.

- Favorite TV shows/cartoons.
- Favorite foods.
- Favorite snacks/candy.
- Favorite recess games/activities.
- Favorite toys (i.e., Christmas/Birthday List).
- Favorite pets/animals.
- Things you want/wish for.
- Rules to change.
- Problems to fix.
- Injustices all around.
- Things not fair.
- · People to help.
- Favors to ask.
- Suggestions to make.
- Convince your parents to buy you a new cell phone.
- Persuade the principal to let your class go on a field trip.
- Argue the pros and cons of a school rule/policy.

Write about texts.

Read-write tasks are based on facts stated within the provided texts.

С	Μ	RA	• State the answer/inference.
Е	A'A	С	 Support it with textual evidence.
R	Μ	Е	• Explain the connection between answer and evidence.

State the position.

Stop asking students to choose a side before they have studied the evidence.



• What do you think? • What's your opinion?

identify topic & position

Explain what you want or what you believe

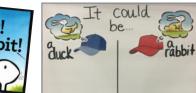
What side are you going to write about?

Introduce the 4-step process for choosing the strongest side.



Identify the possible opinions.

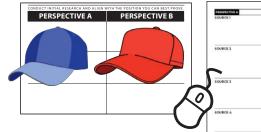


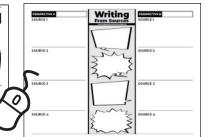




List the details or facts for all sides.

• Try on both/all perspectives.



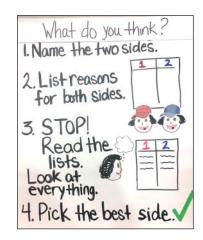




Study the lists and consider the strongest side.



Align with the strongest perspective; make a decision.

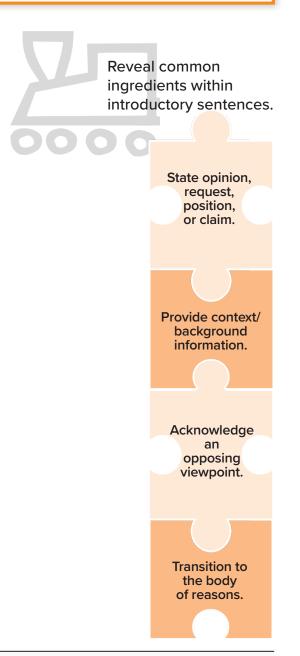




Align with the strongest position.



View entire kindergarten minilesson on choosing sides.

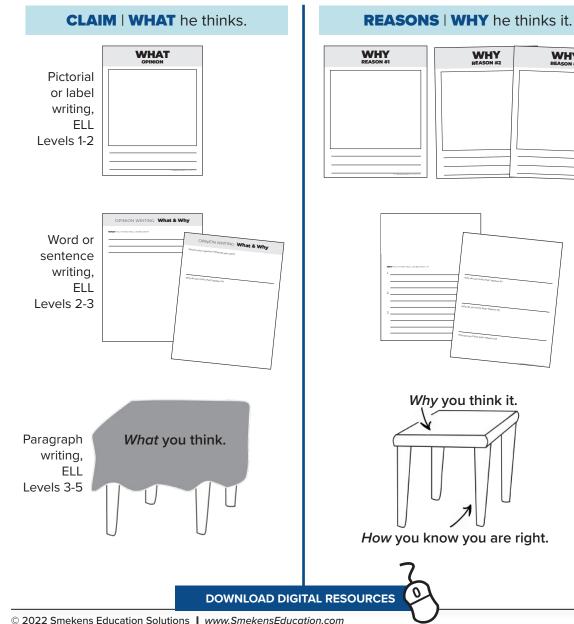


🔅 Study sides of an issue

Reveal perspectives; Present the strongest

Define the essential ingredients.

Follow the *what* with the *why*.



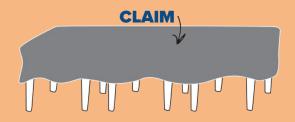
WHY REASON #2

WHY REASON #3

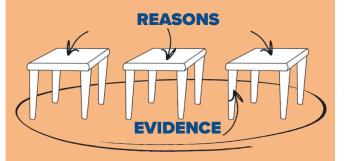
Omit because from the opinion statement.

Clarify the relationship among claims, reasons, and evidence.

CLAIM | The writer's overall position, topic sentence, or thesis statement that all the body paragraphs/sentences attempt to prove.



REASON | The writer's own rationale and explanation for why he thinks as he does (e.g., opinion).



EVIDENCE | Details, guotes, and examples from other sources to "hold up" and support each of the writer's reasons (e.g., facts).

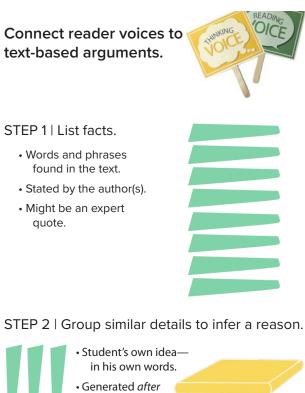
Use facts to shape reasons.

Provide solid support for why you are right



Support the position with sufficient evidence

Execute the 2-step pre-writing process.



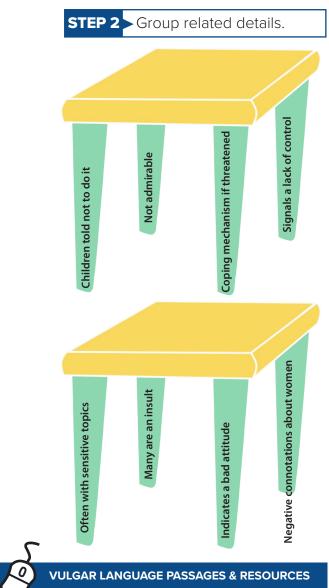
grouping details from the text.

Retrain the students' thinking.

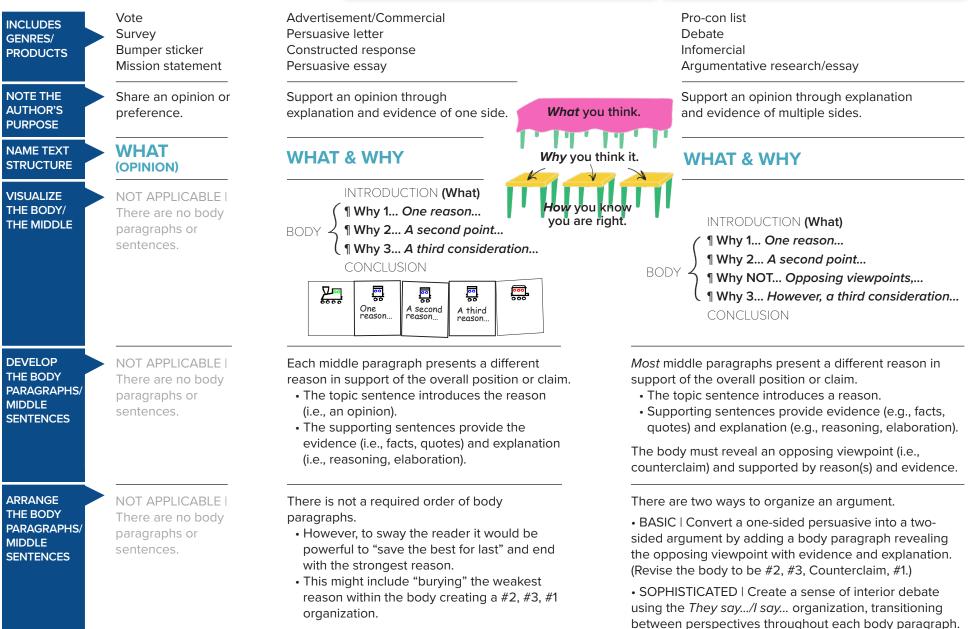




PROMPT | Argue whether the use of vulgar language is a big deal or no biggie.



Teach genre characteristics.



Organize key points

Order your reasons to end with your best

Present both sides

Honor the opposition within the body

Order reasons intentionally.

Rank the reasons.

Present the reasons for maximum reader impact.

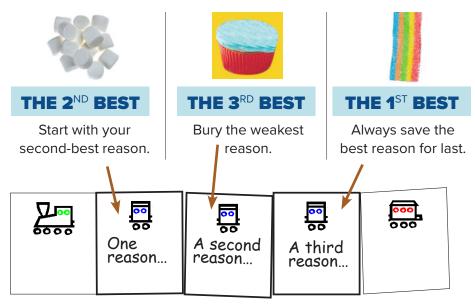
- End with your strongest reason.
- Bury your weakest reason.
- Lead with your second-best reason.



Organize key points

Order your reasons to end with your best

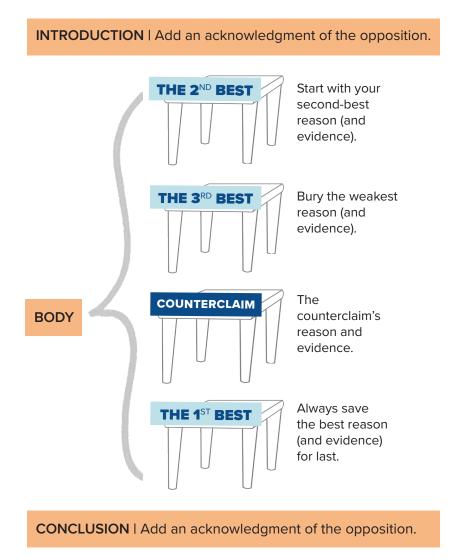
Save the best for last.



Convert a persuasive into a *basic* argumentative.

Present both sides

Honor the opposition within the body



End with what you want

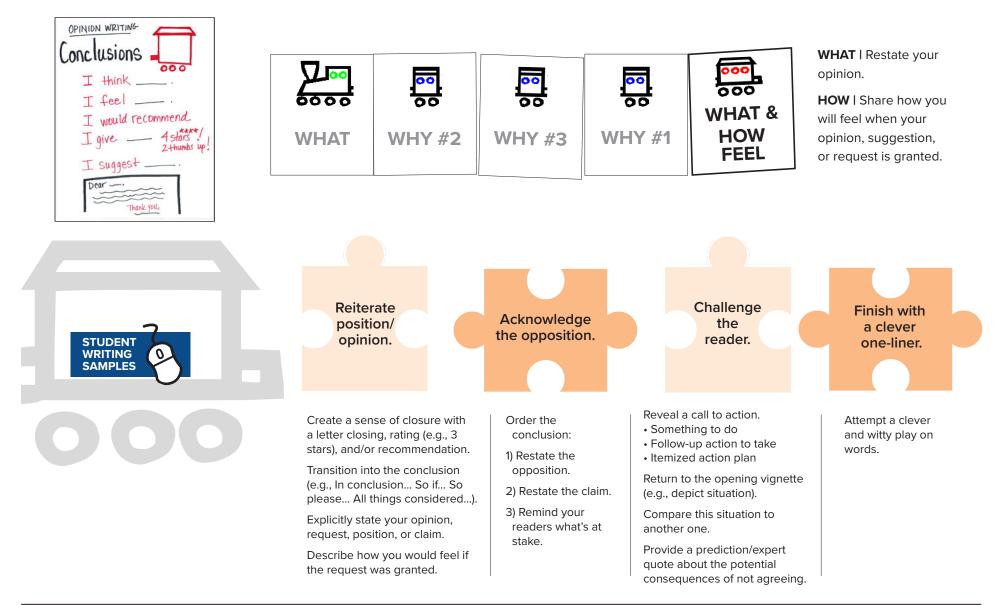
Tell readers what you expect them to do

Conclude the argument

Don't repeat: Remind readers what's at stake

Teach optional ingredients.

Reveal common ingredients within concluding sentences.



Plan narrative-writing experiences.

Understand the expectations.

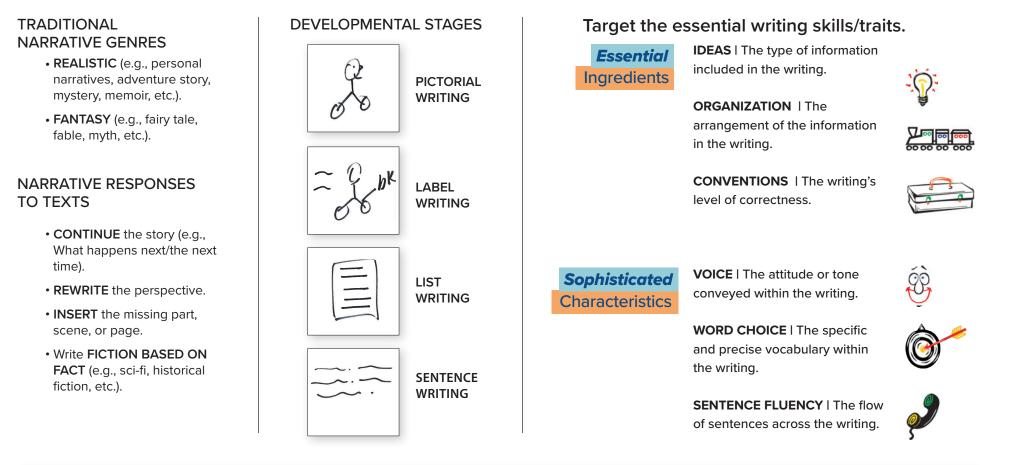
COMMON CORE W3 | INDIANA W3.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

PURPOSE | TO ENTERTAIN

Generate a story or partial story that is rooted in a topic or text.





Target essential skills.

STANDARDS VERBIAGE

- Orient the reader by establishing a situation and/or introducing characters.
- Tell about the events in the order in which they occurred.
- Use transitions/temporal words to signal event order.
- · Include dialogue, sensory details, and details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings of characters.
- Provide a conclusion/sense of closure.





Create a basic plot \hat{Q}

Make something happen to someone



Hook & satisfy readers

Start & end the story intentionally



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VOICE

Sequence time & events

Connect action with transitions

Describe the action

Use sensory details to develop key moments

"Show" close-up details

Describe main character(s) & setting(s)



Reveal character feelings & setting tone

Define the shape of stories.

Clarify story versus description.

Readers expect a story to have a problem.

- Flat line
- Rocket ship
- Crash landing



- - Construction flagger
 - Lifeguard flag

Honor that stories require conflict.

	The main characte has a problem with himself.	er	The character must face a fea or make a difficult choice.	ar	man v. self	
	The main characte has a problem with someone .	er	The character disagrees or h a problem with one or more characters.	as	man v. man	
	The main characte has a problem with something .	er	The character faces an anima a disease, or weather that is beyond his control.	al,	man v. <i>nature</i>	
			The character disagrees with a rule, law, belief, or value that a group possesses.		man v. society man v. technology	
V	What is the Problem	Characte	************************************	i	Ase of Picture Books and Fairytales	

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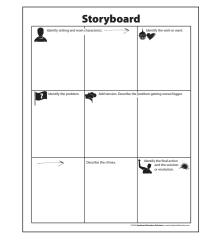


Create a basic plot

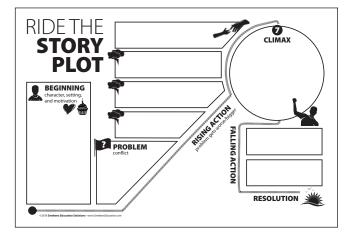
Make something happen to someone

Start with the middle.

Utilize the same reader note-taking tool when preparing to write a narrative.







Emphasize the story structure.

Determine the solution.



- Solve the problem by having the character achieve his wish or want.
- Resolve the problem for the reader with an explanation/understanding.

Readers expect problems to get solved.

Someone
helped.

Another character helped to make things better (e.g., someone came to the rescue, someone had an idea or advice, several characters offered support and teamwork, etc.).

Something helped.

The main character continued to try until the problem was solved (e.g., tried different ways, didn't give up, trial and error, good decisions/ attempts v. bad decisions/attempts).

Something changed.

These problems are not necessarily "fixed" by the end— but things "got better" when the character's attitude or actions changed (e.g., he took a chance, he chose to be brave, he embraced a new attitude, he decided to change, etc.).

Or, things "got better" when the setting changed and time passed (e.g., the weather improved, the party came and went, time healed the wound, felt better in the morning, etc.).

Orient the reader with a beginning.

Consider the most important character and setting details needed— if any.

- Determine who will face the problem.
- Introduce the where and/or when.



Identihy Essential Character Details
 MIDDLE: What's the problem?
l don't have a present for my mom's birthday.
END: How does it get solved?
I draw a picture of blue flowers to be her iPad home screen.

IMPORTANT CHARACTER DETAILS	CHARACTER DETAILS
Mom loves her iPad.	Mom loves Chinese food.
Mom's favorite color is blue.	Dad got Mom a new scarf.
Mom's birthday is today.	Mom is turning 30 years old.
Mom has my artwork all over the house.	Mom got me clothes for my birthday.
Mom loves flowers.	Mom has short black hair.
	Mom is really tall.
	We are going to Grandma's house for Mom's party.



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! Go on to page 7

Beginning • Set Up	
Middle • Mix Up	
End • Fix Up	
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Stretch the middle.

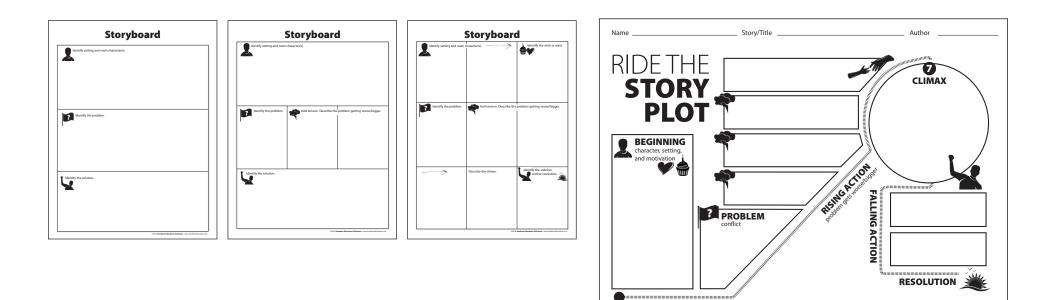


Make the problem/conflict worsen with rising action.



Identify the type of supporting details that will develop the problem.





Move beyond personal narratives.

Expose students to 4 types of narrative-writing tasks.

Then: TRADITIONAL WRITING PROMPT

Narrative Writing

- Based on background knowledge.
- Generates a narrative response.
- Typically requires students to recall a personal experience.
- Allows for more than one possible response.





- Typically based on a literary text.
- Generates a narrative response.
- Typically requires students to continue the story or rewrite it from another character's point of view.
- Requires multiple details from the original text(s).
- Allows for more than one possible response.





Generate narratives in response to reading.

How should students incorporate evidence in a narrative response?

1	Continue the story.
2	Rewrite the perspective.
3	Insert the missing piece.
4	Write fiction based on fact.

Define what counts as evidence.

Review what students know as "evidence" when writing informative and persuasive responses. Clarify that "evidence" in narratives means weaving in details from the original text. Identify the details to include.

- Repeat setting details.
- Repeat character feelings, traits, thoughts, actions, words.
- Repeat plot (problem, solution, action, event, theme) details.

Move beyond personal narratives.

Expose students to 4 types of narrative-writing tasks.

Task Type Key Ingredients



- Incorporate the same characters. • Describe a similar problem & solution. • Depict the same lesson learned iust sooner.
- Include a transitional introduction.

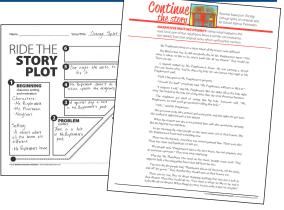


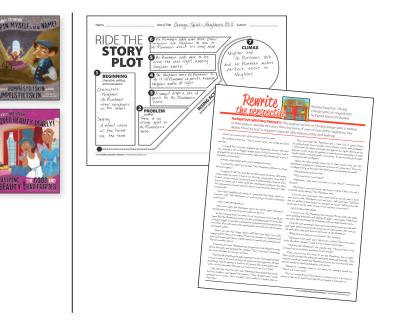


Mentor Text

Anchor Paper

Narrative Generate a story based on a problem







Rewrite the same plot from a different character's viewpoint.

- Incorporate the same characters.
 - Describe the same problem & solution.
 - Reveal a different character's perspective.



- F Integrate feelings this character would possess.
- A Describe actions this character would take.
- S Detail spoken words this character would say.
- T Whisper thoughts this character would have.

Move beyond personal narratives.

Narrative Generate a story based on a problem

Expose students to 4 types of narrative-writing tasks.

Task TypeKey Ingredients



• Expand on ideas merely mentioned.

• Demonstrate mastery of the story arc.

 Note the details that happen before and after the inserted information.

Insert the

missing piece

or page...

 Include a transitional introduction and/ or conclusion.



- Gather details from the informational text, including:
 - People/Subjects.
 - Setting.
 - Events/Activities.

Generate an original plot revealing:

- Accurate character and setting details.
- A realistic problem.
- A plausible solution.

Dissect deleted
 scenes from

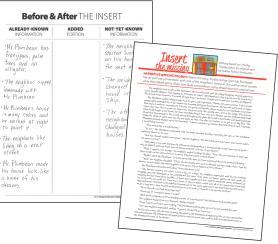
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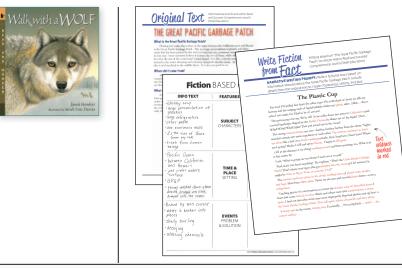
Mentor Text



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Anchor Paper





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ESSENTIAL WRITING LESSONS

Final thoughts...

Recognize the biggest takeaways.

• PART 2: Organize by genre. Teach writing versus assign writing. Write about topics and texts. Persuasive Argumentative **Essentials** Target middles over beginnings Prioritize the traits of ideas and • PART 3: Persuade & argue. and endings. organization. Narrative • PART 4: Note narrative non-negotiables. Identify next steps. 1. List essential skills. Mother Lode Units 2. Identify lesson concepts to target each skill.

- 3. Determine quantity of instructional days needed.
- 4. Plot a 2-3 skills and then a first-draft task.
- 5. Plot a 1-2 MORE skills and time for a NEW first draft.
- 6. Plot a 1-2 MORE skills and time for ANOTHER new first draft.



Informative

• PART 1: Prioritize the "info."