**Techniques of Writing 8**

**Content Area: English   
Course(s): Techniques of Writing 8   
Time Period: September to January  
Length: 15 weeks**

**Status: In progress**

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| **Course Pacing Guide** |
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| **Unit Overview** |
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To build a foundation for college and career readiness, students need to learn to use writing as a way of offering and supporting opinions, demonstrating an understanding of the subjects they are studying, and conveying real and imagined experiences and events. They learn to appreciate that a key purpose of writing is to communicate clearly to an external, sometimes unfamiliar audience, and they begin to adapt the form and content of their writing to accomplish a particular task and purpose. They develop the capacity to build knowledge on a subject through research projects and to respond analytically to literary and informational sources. To meet these goals, students must devote significant time and effort to writing, producing numerous pieces over short and extended time frames throughout the year.

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| **Enduring Understandings** |
| Effective communication relies on the usage of proper forms  Writiers have a purpose for writing.  Writing is a multi-stage process  Writing is a reflective process.  Written communication and proper grammar mechanics promote fluency of communication. |

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| **Essential Questions** |
| How does the audience and purpose influence the format of writing?  Why is it important to share writing?  How does each step of the writing process influence writing?  What are creative ways we can express our unique identity?  How do we use literary devices to add compositional risk in our own writing?  What are the rules for using direct and indirect quotes?  How do effective writers evaluate and reflect to improve writing?  What is the purpose of applying grammar and mechanical skills?  How do peer and teacher criticisms influence, shape and improve writing?  How do you use effective study skills to be successful and stay organized? |

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| **New Jersey Student Learning Standards (No CCS)** |
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NJSLSA.W1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

NJSLSA.W2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content

NJSLSA.W3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

NJSLSA.W4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

NJSLSA.W5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

NJSLSA.W6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others. Research to Build and Present Knowledge

NJSLSA.W7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects, utilizing an inquiry-based research process, based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation

NJSLSA.W8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

NJSLSA.W9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. Range of Writing

NJSLSA.W10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

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| **Amistad Integration** |
| Integration of Newsela Articles that center around African American culture. |

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| **Interdisciplinary Connections** |  |  |

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| Use of Newsela Site (Informational Texts) | **Science**: **6-8.MS-PS1-3.8.1** - [*Practice*] - Gather, read, and synthesize information from multiple appropriate sources and assess the credibility, accuracy, and possible bias of each publication and methods used, and describe how they are supported or not supported by evidence. |
| **Social Studies: SOC.6.2.8** - [*Standard*] - All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically and systematically about how past interactions of people, cultures, and the environment affect issues across time and cultures. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions as socially and ethically responsible world citizens in the 21st century. |
| **Technology**: **TECH.8.1.8.C** - [*Strand*] - Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others. |

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| **Technology Standards** |  |
| **TECH.8.1.8** - [*Standard*] - All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge. | **TECH.8.1.8.B** - [*Strand*] - Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and processes using technology. |
| **TECH.8.1.8.C** - [*Strand*] - Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others. |
| **TECH.8.1.8.D** - [*Strand*] - Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior. |

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| **21st Century Themes/Careers** |
| <https://www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/career/>  CRP4. Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason. Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others’ time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.  CRP5. Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions. Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organization, and the environment. They are aware of and utilize new technologies, understandings, procedures, materials, and regulations affecting the nature of their work as it relates to the impact on the social condition, the environment and the profitability of the organization.  CRP6. Demonstrate creativity and innovation. Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization. They can consider unconventional ideas and suggestions as solutions to issues, tasks or problems, and they discern which ideas and suggestions will add greatest value. They seek new methods, practices, and ideas from a variety of sources and seek to apply those ideas to their own workplace. They take action on their ideas and understand how to bring innovation to an organization. |

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| **Instructional Strategies & Learning Activities** |
| **Review of concepts**  Parts of a sentence (Subject/Predicate)  8-10 sentences for a general paragraph  Compositional Risk/Literary Devices (chart)  Transitions and Transitional Phrases  Citing Quotations  Grammar and Mechanical skills review  \*All review concepts will be turned into reference pages by the end of the year and students will record this in their binders  **Format of essay (Topics will vary but format will stay the same)**   * Funnel introduction:  1. Anecdote 2. Supporting Sentences about the topic 3. Thesis  * Funnel Conclusion  1. Transition 2. Reverse thesis 3. Summary sentences of each body paragraph 4. Lesson learned “It is important to remember ‘blank’ so, because, however.” 5. End of Anecdote   **Newsela informational text activities**  **Journal Writing Responses**  **Narrative Essay Review**   * Enforcing compositional risks in ELA   **Expository Essay Review**   * DRP enforcement with body paragraphs   **Analytical Essay Review**  **Teacher Conference and Peer Edits for all formats**  **MLA format activities** |

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| **Differentiated Instruction** |
| Adjusting Classroom Layout and Design  Graphic Organizers  Choice Boards  Socratic Seminar  Rubrics  Student Interest and Inventory Data  Jigsaws  Flipped Classroom  Learning Through Workstations  Debate |

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| Formative Assessments |
| Quick Writes  Number of words summary  Exit Tickets  Student Conference  3-minute pause  Web-Concept Maps  Observation  Self-assessment  A-B-C Summaries  Journal Entry  Think-Pair-Share  Oral Questioning  Google Forms |

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| **Summative Assessment** |
| State-rubric designed assessments  Final Projects/Portfolios |

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| **Benchmark Assessments** |
| Utilize data from LinkIt!  NJSLA and LinkIt! assessment |

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| **Alternate Assessments** |
| Templates  Reduced number of sentences |

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| **Resources & Technology** |
| Newsela  Google Sites |

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| **BOE Approved Texts** |
| N/A |

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| **Closure** |
| Low-Stakes Quizzes  Exit Tickets  Ask learning based questions  Ask students to summarize or ask questions about what they learned  Collaborate with peers to summarize what they learned  Following Bloom’s Taxonomy, Create questions |

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| **ELL** |
| Some Examples Include (but not limited to):  Copies of notes via Google Classroom  Extended Time  Conference with teacher for assignments  Simplified written and verbal Instructions  E-Dictionaries or Google Translate  Peer partners/cooperative learning |

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| **Special Education** |
| Specific accommodations will be made according to IEP  Some Examples Include (but not limited to):  graphic organizers for writing  opportunity to conference with teacher before submitting writing  review sheets/ study guides for tests  reading guides  group seating during cooperative learning activities  Chromebook and access to all work via Google Classroom |

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| **504** |
| Determined by current 504 plans  Some Examples Include (but not limited to):  preferential seating  extended time on tests and assignments  reduced homework or classwork  verbal, visual, or technology aids  modified textbooks or audio-video materials  behavior management support  verbal testing  excused lateness for submission of work  pre-approved nurse's office visits and accompaniment to visits  occupational, speech or physical therapy |

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| **At Risk** |
| Accommodations will be given as needed for at risk students.  Some Examples Include ( but not limited to):  Have students restate information  Provision of notes or outlines  Verbal and visual cues regarding directions and staying on task  Adjusted assignment timelines or reduced work  Visual daily schedule  Immediate feedback  Work-in-progress check  Pace long-term projects  Preview test procedures  Film, audio or video supplements in place of reading text  Cue/model expected behavior  Use peer supports and mentoring  Frequent parent check ins  Chart progress and maintain data |

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| **Gifted and Talented** |
| Some Example Include (but not limited to):  Provide links to related articles for enrichment  Offer choice for presentation of the poem and method of audience engagement  Students will make connections to their own interests and reading background  Focus on effort and practice  Encourage risk taking |