Grammar -- Capitalization

Content Area: **English Language Arts**
Course(s): **English Language Arts, Generic District Course**
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**
Length: **Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

Students will practice capitalization skills in a variety of contexts with an eye toward applying these skills to their writing.

Instruction and activities in this unit on sentences require high degrees of knowledge and of critical thought.

Among the differences between this unit and the corresponding unit for regular classes:

- Gifted classes naturally engage in critical thought even beyond the already high standard of regular classes, and daily classroom activities will emphasize synthesis of concepts beyond mere application and analysis (e.g., Contrive a situation in which we could coin a proper adverb, though adverbs are not conventionally proper.)
- Gifted classes include opportunities for students to engage in peer instruction, placing the teacher at times in the role of facilitator. This capitalizes on the strong intrinsic motivation of the gifted child.
- Assessments are more challenging, requiring keener analysis skills even to arrive at correct responses to objective items on quizzes and tests.

For more information, please see the *Activities* section of this unit.

Standards

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1.b	Follow rules for collegial discussions, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.4	Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.5	Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify claims and findings and emphasize salient points.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Essential Questions

How do conventional rules apply to capitalization?

Why does following standard conventions makes writing more authoritative?

Application of Knowledge and Skills...

Students will know that...

Students will know:

-the rules for capitalization as they apply to initial words, salutations and closings of letters, and miscellaneous categories of words.

-the rules for capitalization as they apply to various categories of proper nouns and adjectives.

-conventions for capitalization continue to evolve (e.g., iPad)

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Students will be skilled at...

Students will be able to:

-capitalize initial words, salutations and closings of letters, and miscellaneous categories of words.

-capitalize the various categories of proper nouns and adjectives.

-recognize, discuss, and apply new conventions of capitalization.

-debate the validity of some rules for capitalization.

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Assessments

Formative Quizzes
Formative: Written Test

Formative quizzes given periodically to assess students' understanding of concepts.

Unit Test
Summative: Written Test

End-of-unit test

Peer Presentations (if teacher chooses)
Other oral assessments

The teacher may wish to assign students to groups, each of which would prepare a presentation for instruction and assessment on a topic from this unit on sentences and sentence structure. The teacher, meanwhile, will provide parallel objective assessment in the form of quizzes in advance of an objective unit test.

This assessment could include three tiers: the student's assessment of his or her contribution to the group presentation; the class's assessment of each presentation; and the teacher's assessment of each presentation. Forms for all three of these appear as document links to this unit.

Unit Prestest
Diagnostic: Written Test

Parameters and Assessment Rubrics for Peer Instruction

- Diagnostic: Written Test
- End-of-unit test
- Formative Quizzes
- Formative quizzes given periodically to assess students' understanding of concepts.
- Formative: Written Test
- Other oral assessments
- Peer Presentations (if teacher chooses)

- Summative: Written Test
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- Unit Prestest
- Unit Test

Activities

Possible classroom activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Distribution of handouts/study guides for capitalization; discussion and analysis of concepts and contexts

SmartBoard exercises identifying concepts and manipulating sentences and their contexts (may be used as daily warm-up activities)

Activities from *The Writer's Craft*.

Activities for practice and analysis of skills and concepts

Composition of flash cards to supplement study guides

Peer presentations and instruction—in consultation with the teacher.

Challenge exercises for enrichment—possibly generated by students.

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

Students may work collaboratively to prepare an instructional presentation on concepts related to the unit. This involves a variety of personal and peer influences. Peer instruction may include, but not be limited to, the

following:

Visual: handouts, flash cards, practice quizzes and tests

Visual/Kinesthetic: Smart Board activities

Struggling learners: peer groupings, handouts, reviews

Advanced students: peer groupings; opportunities to lead SmartBoard activities; opportunities to suggest strategies and demonstrate techniques

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

None for this unit.

Resources

Handouts for capitalization

Practice quizzes

Practice test

Student-generated supplemental materials (flashcards, notes)

Teacher Website (for assignments and expectations)

Additional resources generated by students and distributed during their group presentations

The Writer's Craft (the grammar textbook whose content was the basis for the former grammar curriculum, and whose organization and information are highly compatible with this unit)

- UbD Punctuation Notes Apostrophes Hyphens.doc
- UbD Punctuation Notes Commas.doc
- UbD Punctuation Notes Dash Ellipsis.doc
- UbD Punctuation Notes Restrictive and Nonrestrictive.doc
- UbD Punctuation Notes Semicolons Colons.doc