

# Unit 2-Writing-Informational/Explanatory

Content Area: **English Language Arts**  
Course(s): **Language Arts 8**  
Time Period: **October**  
Length: **Throughout Year**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Summary

In this unit, students will understand that informational or explanatory writing conveys accurate information to increase the readers' knowledge of a subject, to help readers better understand a procedure or process, or to provide readers with an enhanced comprehension of a concept. Effective information or explanatory writing uses a variety of techniques (e.g., naming, defining, describing, differentiating different types or parts, comparing and contrasting ideas or concepts, citing an anecdote or scenario) to communicate how things work and why things happen.

## Standards

LA.W.8.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
LA.W.8.2.A	Introduce a topic and organize ideas, concepts, and information, using text structures (e.g., definition, classification, comparison/contrast, cause/effect, etc.) and text features (e.g., headings, graphics, and multimedia).
LA.W.8.2.B	Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
LA.W.8.2.C	Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
LA.W.8.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
LA.W.8.2.E	Establish and maintain a formal style/academic style, approach, and form.
LA.W.8.2.F	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
LA.W.8.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, voice and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.8.5	With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
LA.W.8.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.
LA.W.8.7	Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
LA.W.8.8	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
LA.W.8.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

LA.W.8.9.A	Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new”).
LA.W.8.9.B	Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced”).
LA.W.8.10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, metacognition/self correction, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.
CAEP.9.2.8.B.3	Evaluate communication, collaboration, and leadership skills that can be developed through school, home, work, and extracurricular activities for use in a career.
TECH.8.1.8.A.1	Demonstrate knowledge of a real world problem using digital tools.
TECH.8.1.8.A.CS1	Understand and use technology systems.
TECH.8.1.8.A.CS2	Select and use applications effectively and productively.
TECH.8.1.8.D.CS2	Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.

## Essential Questions

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- How does a writer convey information clearly and accurately to deepen the reader’s understanding of a topic?

## Student Learning Objectives

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- Students will learn...

## Enduring Understandings

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- Students will understand that there are specific characteristics, organizational structures, and text features of effective informational writing.
- Students will understand that informational writing depends on the clear analysis and presentation of carefully selected relevant details from credible sources.

## Skills

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Students will be skilled at:

- Utilizing the writing process to develop short and long pieces of informational that incorporate strategies relating to naming, defining, differentiating, comparing, contrasting, citing evidence, analyzing data, summarizing, instruction, demonstration, and/or delineating/numeraling steps in a process.
- Researching to find supporting data
- Analyzing data to determine the relevance of data and whether it should be included in a text that will inform or explain.
- Conveying information about a subject by developing a controlling idea and a coherent focus, and selecting and incorporating relevant examples.

## Application

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- Students will be able to independently use their learning to...