

Journalism

Content Area: **English Language Arts**
Course(s): **Language Arts 5**
Time Period: **June**
Length: **May to June 4 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Summary

Writers will be exposed to a dramatic scene in class. They will write a flashdraft describing who, what, where, when, how and why this dramatic event occurred. Next students will read exemplary news stories while identifying the 5 W's plus H. Students will brainstorm a list of topics that are newsworthy. The inverted pyramid graphic organizer will be closely analyzed, then used to plan and organize notes for other news stories. Students will draft many news stories in writing notebooks, then choose one to publish. The goal for all new stories is to be concise and focused following the structure of the inverted pyramid.

Standards

LA.W.5.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
LA.W.5.2.A	Introduce a topic clearly to provide a focus and group related information logically; include text features such as headings, illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
LA.W.5.2.B	Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
LA.W.5.2.C	Link ideas within paragraphs and sections of information using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., in contrast, especially).
LA.W.5.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
LA.W.5.2.E	Provide a conclusion related to the information of explanation presented.

Student Learning Objectives

Students will learn to:

- write an introduction that includes who, what, when and where.
- write body paragraphs that include why and how.
- elaborate with a variety of information while keeping news story concise and succinct.
- write a conclusion that includes extra information.

Essential Questions

- How can I be a journalist that writes quickly, revises purposefully, and exposes thoughtful observations about my community?
- How can we use the writing process to communicate our stories as news for a specific audience?

Enduring Understandings

Students will understand that:

- journalists have a strong command of tone.
- journalists express their ideas in a concise and straightforward manner.

Application

Students will be able to independently use their learning to:

- Examine a scene as if he or she is a reporter.
- take notes describing who, what, where, when, how and why this event occurred.
- organize notes using the inverted pyramid.
- write a succinct three to four paragraph news story.

Skills

Students will be skilled at:

- writing an introduction.
- organizing writing.
- elaborating with a variety of information while remaining concise.
- writing a conclusion which includes extraneous information.