

Unit 3: Writing for Readers: How To (Weeks 11-13)

Content Area: **Template**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Full Year**
Length: **9 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit 3: Writing for Readers: How To

Unit Rationale

Throughout this unit students will use their writing to teach others how to do something. Writers will brainstorm different things they know how to make, play, or do. They will learn to tap and tell their how-to books before writing each sentence down. Students will use pictures and sequencing words to help the reader envision each step of the process. They will practice using capital letters, correct spacing, stretching out word sounds, and spelling word wall words accurately to improve their pieces. Students will create a cover and about the author page before publishing their favorite how-to piece!

21st Century Life and Career

CRP.K-12.CRP1.1

Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.

Essential Questions

Why do writers teach readers “How to…” do something?

How do writers use mentor texts to improve their own writing?

Why do writers utilize numbers and/or sequencing words to organize their writing into steps?

Pre-Assessments

Writing (in process and as a completed work)

Student/Teacher conference

Folder entries

Teacher Observation

Instructional Plan

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MtTiJCLZLYK7T8as7bKYS_vw-4t7uzgAxH91f0QDVPE/edit

Skill Set #1: Teach Readers "How to..." Do Something

See attached for Student Learning Intentions or We are learning to ... (WALT) and Student Success Criteria ... "I can statements"

[Learning Intentions](#)

Refer to Instructional Plan document for Instructional Strategies and Activities, Formative Assessments, Instructional Materials and Resources, and Reflections and Suggested Modifications

Skill Set #2: Collect Procedural How-To Texts (make, play, do, etc.)

See attached for Student Learning Intentions or We are learning to ... (WALT) and Student Success Criteria ... "I can statements"

[Learning Intentions](#)

Refer to Instructional Plan document for Instructional Strategies and Activities, Formative Assessments, Instructional Materials and Resources, and Reflections and Suggested Modifications

Skill Set #3: Writers Include Numbers and/or Sequencing Words to Organize Writing

(first, next, and then, last)

See attached for Student Learning Intentions or We are learning to ... (WALT) and Student Success Criteria ... "I can statements"

[Learning Intentions](#)

Refer to Instructional Plan document for Instructional Strategies and Activities, Formative Assessments, Instructional Materials and Resources, and Reflections and Suggested Modifications

Skill Set #4: Writers Use Detailed Illustrations to Support Writing

See attached for Student Learning Intentions or We are learning to ... (WALT) and Student Success Criteria ... "I can statements"

[Learning Intentions](#)

Refer to Instructional Plan document for Instructional Strategies and Activities, Formative Assessments, Instructional Materials and Resources, and Reflections and Suggested Modifications

Modifications and/or Accommodations

Suggested Modifications (ELL, Sp. Ed, Gifted, At-risk of Failure)

English Language Learners

Native language support: The teacher provides auditory or written content to students in their native language.

Adjusted Speech: The teacher changes speech patterns to increase student comprehension. This could include facing the students, paraphrasing, clearly indicating the most important ideas, and speaking more slowly.

Visuals: The teacher uses graphics, pictures, visuals, and manipulatives. This helps ELL students better understand and comprehend the subjects at hand.

Front-Loading Vocabulary: The teacher front loads vocabulary. This means providing students with

a list of important vocabulary words they will need to know for a book, lesson, etc. prior to the lesson being taught. Including pictures to go with the vocabulary words is also very beneficial for the students.

Special Education Students

Chunking: The teacher presents information in a way that makes it easy for students to understand and remember. Chunking is based on the presumption that our working memory is easily overloaded by excessive detail. The best way to deliver information is to organize it into meaningful units. Because students with special needs get overloaded easily, chunking is an effective strategy to use with them.

Checking for Understanding: It is important to constantly check for understanding, especially for students who have accommodations. Teachers want to make sure students understand the concepts being covered in a way that makes sense to them.

Extra time: The teacher provides students with special needs extra time to complete work or answer questions. It is important to give students enough time to process their thoughts.

Oral Reading: The teacher will read work orally to students. Class work such as tests and literature circles may need to be read aloud to the student.

Timers: The teacher will use timers as an instructional tool. The use of timers is beneficial for students who have trouble completing tasks. Timers can be helpful so the student is aware of how much time they have to complete an assignment.

Students with 504 Plans

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Gifted & Talented Strategies

Extensions/Enrichments: Teachers will provide gifted and talented students with extension/enrichment projects. Students will be challenged to further their understanding, to apply acquired knowledge, and/or to produce something in reference to acquired knowledge.

Modify/Change Activities: Teachers will monitor and modify activities to accommodate those students who need to be challenged further. Additional reading, problem-solving, writing, or project work is necessary for those students who are ready to move on at a rate more accelerated than their peers. In this way, G & T students are provided the same opportunity for support as special needs students.

Students at Risk of School Failure

Directions or Instructions: Make sure directions and/or instructions are given in limited numbers. Give directions/instructions verbally and in simple written format. Ask students to repeat the instructions or directions to ensure understanding occurs. Check back with the student to ensure he/she hasn't forgotten.

Peer Support: Peers can help build confidence in other students by assisting in peer learning. Many teachers use the 'ask 3 before me' approach. This is fine, however, a student at risk may have to have a specific student or two to ask. Set this up for the student so he/she knows who to ask for clarification before going to you.

Alternate or Modified Assignments: Always ask yourself, "How can I modify this assignment to ensure the students at risk are able to complete it?" Sometimes you'll simplify the task, reduce the length of the assignment or allow for a different mode of delivery. For instance, many students may hand something in, the at-risk student may jot notes and give you the information verbally. Or, it just may be that you will need to assign an alternate assignment.

Increase One to One Time: When other students are working, always touch base with your students at risk and find out if they're on track or needing some additional support. A few minutes here and there will go a long way to intervene as the need presents itself.

Contracts: It helps to have a working contract between you and your students at risk. This helps prioritize the tasks that need to be done and ensure completion happens. Each day write down what needs to be completed, as the tasks are done, provide a checkmark or happy face. The goal of using contracts is to eventually have the student come to you for completion sign-offs.

Hands On: As much as possible, think in concrete terms and provide hands-on tasks. This means a child doing math may require a calculator or counters. The child may need to tape record comprehension activities instead of writing them. A child may have to listen to a story being read instead of reading it him/herself.

Tests/Assessments: Tests can be done orally if need be. Break tests down in smaller increments by having a portion of the test in the morning, another portion after lunch and the final part the next day.

Seating: Seat students near a helping peer or with quick access to the teacher. Those with hearing or sight issues need to be close to the instruction which often means near the front.

Integration of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Climate Change; Informational and Media Literacy

See CrossWalk

New Jersey Student Learning Standards: Content Area

ELA.W.IW.K.2	Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts to convey ideas.
ELA.W.WP.K.4	With prompts and support from adults, recognize that writing carries a message and should make sense to others.
ELA.W.WR.K.5	With prompting and support, generate questions through shared research in response to a topic, text, or stimulus (e.g., event, photograph, video, book).
ELA.W.SE.K.6	With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Integration of Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills

TECH.9.4.2.CI.1	Demonstrate openness to new ideas and perspectives (e.g., 1.1.2.CR1a, 2.1.2.EH.1, 6.1.2.CivicsCM.2).
TECH.9.4.2.CT.1	Gather information about an issue, such as climate change, and collaboratively brainstorm ways to solve the problem (e.g., K-2-ETS1-1, 6.3.2.GeoGI.2).

Integration of Computer Science and Design Thinking

CS.K-2.ETW	Effects of Technology on the Natural World
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Interdisciplinary Connections: NJSL for ELA, Social Studies, Science and/or Math

ELA.L.VL.K.2	With prompting and support, ask and answer questions to help determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on kindergarten reading and content.
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SEL Competencies

SEL.PK-12.1.1	Recognize one's feelings and thoughts
SEL.PK-12.1.2	Recognize the impact of one's feelings and thoughts on one's own behavior
SEL.PK-12.1.4	Recognize the importance of self-confidence in handling daily tasks and challenges
SEL.PK-12.4.2	Identify the consequences associated with one's actions in order to make constructive choices

SEL.PK-12.4.3	Evaluate personal, ethical, safety, and civic impact of decisions
SEL.PK-12.5.1	Establish and maintain healthy relationships
SEL.PK-12.5.3	Identify ways to resist inappropriate social pressure
SEL.PK-12.5.4	Demonstrate the ability to prevent and resolve interpersonal conflicts in constructive ways