

# Unit 02: Writing & Grammar Workshop

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

## Standards Alignment

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### New Jersey Student Learning Standards

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#### Integration of Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills

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CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP3	Attend to personal health and financial well-being.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP5	Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP.K-12.CRP9	Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
CRP.K-12.CRP10	Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
CRP.K-12.CRP12	Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.

#### Technology / Integration of Computer Science and Design Thinking

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TECH.8.1.12	Educational Technology: 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.8.1.12.A	Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.
TECH.8.1.12.A.1	Create a personal digital portfolio which reflects personal and academic interests, achievements, and career aspirations by using a variety of digital tools and resources.
TECH.8.1.12.A.3	Collaborate in online courses, learning communities, social networks or virtual worlds to discuss a resolution to a problem or issue.
TECH.8.1.12.C	Communication and Collaboration: 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.8.1.12.C.1	Develop an innovative solution to a real world problem or issue in collaboration with peers and experts, and present ideas for feedback through social media or in an online community.
TECH.8.1.12.D	Digital Citizenship: Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.
TECH.8.1.12.D.1	Demonstrate appropriate application of copyright, fair use and/or Creative Commons to an original work.

## **Interdisciplinary Connections: NJSL for ELA, Social Studies, Science and/or Math Section**

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### **Capacities of the Literate Individual**

#### **Students Who are College and Career Ready in Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, & Language**

They respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline.

They use technology and digital media strategically and capably

LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W	Writing
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
	Production and Distribution of Writing
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.
LA.K-12.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.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
	Range of Writing
LA.K-12.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.
	Text Types and Purposes
LA.W.9-10.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
LA.W.9-10.1.D	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.

LA.W.9-10.1.E	Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L	Language
LA.W.9-10.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
LA.W.9-10.3.A	Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.  Conventions of Standard English
LA.W.9-10.3.B	Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
LA.W.9-10.3.C	Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.  Knowledge of Language
LA.W.9-10.3.D	Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L3	Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
LA.W.9-10.3.E	Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.
LA.W.9-10.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.9-10.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.W.9-10.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology’s capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L6	Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.
LA.W.9-10.8	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation (MLA or APA Style Manuals).
LA.W.9-10.9	Draw evidence from literary or nonfiction informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.W.9-10.9.A	Apply grades 9–10 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work [e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from Ovid mythology or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare]”).
LA.W.9-10.9.B	Apply grades 9–10 Reading standards to nonfiction informational (e.g., “Delineate and

	evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning”).
LA.W.9-10.10	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.
LA.L.9-10.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.9-10.1.B	Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations.
LA.L.9-10.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
LA.L.9-10.2.A	Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses.
LA.L.9-10.2.B	Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation.
LA.L.9-10.2.C	Spell correctly.
LA.L.9-10.3	Apply knowledge of language to make effective choices for meaning, or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading, writing, speaking or listening.
LA.L.6.3.A	Vary sentence patterns for meaning (syntax), reader/listener interest, and style/voice.
LA.L.5.1.D	Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.
LA.L.3.1.F	Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.
LA.L.6.3.B	Maintain consistency in style and tone.
LA.L.4.1.F	Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.
LA.L.4.1.G	Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., to, too, two; there, their).
LA.L.9-10.6	Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.
LA.L.3.3.A	Choose words and phrases for effect.

## **Integration of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Climate Change; Informational and Media LiteracyNew Section**

see Crosswalks

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## **21st Century Life and Careers**

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## **Stage I: Desired Results**

## **Transfer/Overview/Rationale**

### **Transfer / Overview / Rationale**

#### Unit Rationale

The purpose of this unit...

With the goal of developing literacy in struggling students, extra time will be spent building a firm foundation of basic writing and grammar skills. Every unit will have a specific writing skill focus and writing assignment (as outlined in units). In addition, throughout the year, students will participate in writing and grammar workshops to learn specific strategies for effective writing. Just like other content areas, writing can be taught through step-by-step instruction and modeling. Through engaging mini-lessons, students will strengthen specific writing skills in accordance with the common core and PARCC. Students will also keep a writing portfolio and frequently self-assess, monitor growth, and edit/revise. An essential aspect of being a good writer is having a strong understanding of English grammar. Grammar will be taught on a regular basis with an emphasis on quality over quantity. There will be a focus on the "Top 5 (specified below.) The prime means of grammar assessment will be through self and peer editing in the context of their writing. Students should be able to identify their errors and have the knowledge and skills to correct them. The overall goal of this year-long unit is for students to have a stronger understanding of the English language and a toolbox of writing strategies that will enable them to successfully write for a variety of tasks and audiences

## **Meaning**

## **Essential Questions**

### Essential Questions

1. What specific skills can students use to aid in writing for a variety of purposes?
2. How does understanding the conventions of English grammar increase student reading comprehension and quality of writing?
3. Can one be taught to be a skilled writer or is it a skill that one inherently possess and therefore, can not be learned?

## **Enduring Understanding/Indicators of Understanding**

### Enduring Understanding/Indicators of Understanding

1. Writing skills can be acquired through step-by-step instruction and modeling.
2. Reading comprehension and quality of writing improves with the acquisition of a basic understanding of conventional English grammar.
3. Strong writing skills can be built over time through routine practice, modeling, and self-assessment.

## **Acquisition (Student Learning Objectives)**

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### **Knowledge**

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#### Knowledge

Students will know...

- General paper guidelines (i.e spell out numbers over 100)
- Necessary components of a standard essay
- How to create clear, organized writing
- How to use direct evidence to support a claim
- Basic parts of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb)
- Basic sentence structure (subject, verb, object)
- Subject-Verb Agreement
- Common Sentence Structure Errors: run-ons and fragments
- Proper Comma Usage

### **Skills**

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#### Skills

Student will be skilled at ...

- Write an introduction paragraph (hook, transition, thesis)
- Write a conclusion paragraph (return to hook, restatement of thesis, synthesis, clincher)
- Use transitions between paragraphs and ideas
- Use consistent verb tense within a piece of writing
- Use and embed direct support
- Paraphrase from a credible source
- Identify parts of speech within the structure of a sentence
- Write diverse sentences
- Use subjects and verbs that agree
- Avoid writing run-ons and fragments
- Use commas correctly
- Avoid commonly misused words and phrases
- Strengthen writing and grammar overtime with practice of specific skills

## **Stage 3: Learning Plan**

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### **Resource and Mentor Texts**

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#### Resources and Mentor Texts

- The Great Grammar Book by Marsha Sramek
- Grammar Girl: Quick and Dirty Tips
- \* There are two reading/writing strategy books I use, but need to get the titles from school! (Sue Beers)
- Mini-lesson PowerPoint and handouts

### **Formative Assessment Strategies**

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#### Formative Assessment Strategies

- Grammar Diagnostic/ Pre-test
- Class participation
- Integration of correct grammar into journals, essays, and everyday writing
- Practice/Exercises
- Peer and Self Edits
- Whole-class review
- Quizzes

### **Learning Activities/Unit of Study**

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#### Learning Activities/Unit of Study

- Do's and Do Not's of Writing" Power Point
- Grammar Lessons (notes, practice, editing)
- Self evaluation of growth (writing portfolios)
- Mini-lessons/reinforcement when necessary (i.e. embedding quotes using direct quotes from fairytales)
- Mini-Writing Activities (Responding to aphorisms)
- Annotation and open-ended response of high-interest current events
- Handouts and activities for specific skills practice
- Tips of the Day (commonly misused words and phrases)

## **Modifications and/or Accommodations**

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### **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.