3rd Grade Writing Trimester 1

Content Area: **ELA**
Course(s): **ELA Grade 3**
Time Period: **MP1**
Length: **60**
Status: **Published**

NJSLS ELA

Text Types and Purposes
W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.
W.3.1.A: Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.
W.3.1.B: Provide reasons that support the opinion.
W.3.1.C: Use linking words and phrases (e.g., because, therefore, since, for example) to connect opinion and reasons.
W.3.1.D: Provide a concluding statement or section.

W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
W.3.2.A: Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.
W.3.2.B: Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.
W.3.2.C: Use linking words and phrases (e.g., also, another, and, more, but) to connect ideas within categories of information.
W.3.2.D: Provide a concluding statement or section.

W.3.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
W.3.3.A: Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
W.3.3.B: Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.
W.3.3.C: Use temporal words and phrases to signal event order.
W.3.3.D: Provide a sense of closure.

Production and Distribution of Writing
W.3.4: With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)
W.3.5: With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.
W.3.6: With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge
W.3.7: Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.
W.3.8: Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital

sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.
Range of Writing
W.3.10: 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 discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.
These standards are designed to help 3rd-grade students develop a strong foundation in writing, preparing them for future academic and career success.

L.WF.3.3. Demonstrate command of the conventions of writing including those listed under grade two foundational skills.

A. Improve communication of meaning by replacing weak verbs with stronger ones, and common nouns with precise nouns.

B. Capitalize appropriate words in titles.

C. Choose and maintain consistency of tense, writing nouns and verbs that agree in tense.

D. Use common regular and irregular plural forms, writing nouns and verbs that agree in number.

E. Use appropriate pronouns with clear referents.

F. Use periods, question marks, exclamation points, commas, apostrophes, and quotation marks appropriately. (e.g., commas and quotation marks in dialogue, and commas in addresses).

G. Combine simple sentences into compound sentences, using conjunctions and, but, or, yet, and so.

H. Paraphrase a main idea or event in order to vary sentence structure and word use.

SL.PI.3.4. Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

SL.UM.3.5. Use multimedia to demonstrate fluid reading at an understandable pace; add visual displays when appropriate to emphasize or enhance certain facts or details.

SL.AS.3.6. Speak in complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.

Rationale and Transfer Goals

Personal

Enhances Writing Skills	Writing personal narratives helps students develop essential writing s stories with a clear beginning, middle, and end. This practice also en sequence events logically.
Encourages Self-Reflection	Personal narratives require students to reflect on their own experien and expressing their thoughts and feelings on paper, students gain a
Builds Confidence	When students see their own experiences and stories as valuable, it stories matter can be incredibly empowering for young learners.
Develops Voice and Creativity	Writing personal narratives helps students develop their unique voice and creativity, which is crucial for their overall development as write
Promotes Social and Emotional Learning	Sharing personal narratives in a classroom setting helps build a sens feedback, and appreciate different perspectives. This practice enhan
Practical Application	Personal narratives are a practical way for students to practice writin for students to connect with the material and stay motivated to write
Preparation for Future Academic Tasks	Learning to write personal narratives lays the foundation for more co various writing assignments, from essays to research papers, as they

Opinion Writing	
Developing critical thinking skills	Opinion writing encourages students to analyze topics, form judgments, and support their views with reasons and evidence. This process helps develop critical thinking abilities that are essential for academic and personal growth.
Enhancing communication skills	Learning to express opinions clearly and persuasively in writing improves overall communication skills. This ability is crucial for effective self-expression in various aspects of life.
Preparing for academic writing	Opinion writing introduces students to the basics of argumentative writing, which is a fundamental skill required in higher grades and beyond. It lays the foundation for more complex forms of academic writing.
Engaging with real-world issues	Opinion writing allows students to connect with and respond to classroom, school, and community issues, making learning more relevant and meaningful.

Fostering decision-making skills	By learning to weigh reasons and support their opinions, students develop better decision-making abilities.
Encouraging active citizenship	Opinion writing helps students understand the importance of expressing their views and participating in discussions about issues that affect them, which is crucial for active citizenship.
Improving reading comprehension	As students learn to form and support opinions, they also become more adept at identifying and evaluating arguments in texts they read.
Boosting confidence	Mastering the ability to express and support their opinions can increase students' confidence in their ideas and their ability to contribute to discussions.
Preparing for standardized tests	Many standardized tests include opinion or argumentative writing tasks, so early exposure to this type of writing can help students perform better on these assessments.

Enduring Understandings

Personal Narratives:

1. Personal narratives focus on small moments from the writer's own life experiences. Students learn to zoom in on specific, meaningful events rather than broad topics.
2. Writers use personal narratives to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences with others. This helps students understand the power of storytelling to connect with readers.
3. The writing process involves multiple stages, including brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Students learn that good writing develops over time through reflection and improvement.
4. Writers use specific strategies and tools to craft engaging narratives, such as:
    - Adding sensory details to bring scenes to life
    - Creating strong opening sentences to hook the reader
    - Using dialogue and descriptive language to show rather than tell
    - Organizing events in chronological order
5. Personal narratives allow writers to reflect on and make sense of their experiences. Through writing, students can gain insights into their own lives and perspectives.
6. Effective narratives have a clear structure with a beginning, middle, and end. This helps students understand the importance of organizing their thoughts and stories coherently.
7. Writers can draw inspiration for their narratives from various sources, including important people, places, objects, and memories in their lives.
8. The ability to tell captivating stories is a powerful skill that helps people connect with each other and share their unique perspectives.

By engaging in personal narrative writing, 3rd graders develop not only their

writing skills but also their ability to reflect on their experiences, express themselves clearly, and connect with others through storytelling.

Opinion Writing:

1. Opinion writing requires writers to share their opinion on a topic and support it with facts and reasons in order to persuade others. This helps students understand the purpose and structure of persuasive writing.
2. Effective opinion writing includes a clear thesis statement, reasons, evidence, and a strong closing. Students learn to organize their thoughts and arguments in a logical manner.
3. Writers need to distinguish between facts and opinions when crafting their arguments. This develops critical thinking skills and helps students evaluate information.
4. Opinion writing involves considering the audience and crafting reasons with them in mind. This teaches students to think about perspective and how to effectively communicate their ideas to others.
5. The writing process, including planning, drafting, revising, and editing, is important for developing strong opinion pieces. Students learn to refine and improve their writing through multiple stages.
6. Opinion writing helps students express their thoughts and beliefs on topics that are meaningful to them. This allows for personal expression and engagement with issues they care about.
7. Writers use various strategies to support their opinions, such as personal experiences, facts from reliable sources, and examples. This teaches students to gather and evaluate evidence to strengthen their arguments.
8. Opinion writing develops students' ability to defend their point of view and consider counter-arguments. This fosters critical thinking and helps students engage in constructive debates.

By engaging in opinion writing, 3rd graders develop important skills in persuasive communication, critical thinking, and structured argumentation that will serve them well in future academic and real-world contexts.

Essential Questions

Higher Order Thinking Ques

1. How can you make the reader feel like they are experiencing your story along with
2. What sensory details could you add to bring your story to life for the reader?

3. Why did you choose this particular experience to write about? What makes it mear
4. How did this experience change you or teach you something new?
5. What was the most challenging part of this experience for you? How did you overc
6. If you could go back and change one thing about what happened, what would it be
7. How would your story be different if told from another person's perspective who wa
8. What emotions did you feel during this experience? How can you show those emot
9. What was the turning point in your story? How can you build up to that moment to
10. If you were to continue the story beyond where you ended it, what do you think wo
11. How does this experience connect to other important events or themes in your life?
12. What lesson or message do you want readers to take away from your story?

Higher Order Thinking Qu

1. What are the key elements that make a strong opinion piece?
2. How does the author's word choice affect the persuasiveness of their argument?
3. What evidence does the author use to support their opinion? Is it effective?
4. How does the structure of the piece (introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion) help convey the author's
5. Is the author's opinion clearly stated? How could it be made clearer?
6. Are the reasons given to support the opinion convincing? Why or why not?
7. What counter arguments could someone make against this opinion? How could the author address those
8. Is there enough evidence provided to support the opinion? What additional evidence would strengthen it
9. How could you rewrite the introduction to make it more engaging for the reader?
10. What's another way to organize the reasons and evidence to make the argument stronger?
11. How would you revise the conclusion to leave a lasting impression on the reader?
12. How could you use these persuasive writing techniques in other types of writing?
13. In what real-life situations might you need to express and support an opinion like this?

Content & Activities

Week	Suggested Lessons	Framing Your Thoughts Lessons
Week 1- Personal Narratives	Lesson 1: What is a personal narrative? Lesson 2:What can I write about? Lesson 3: What is a small moment? Lesson 4: My Small Moment Lesson 5: Positive memorable moments	Framing Your Thoughts book • Sentence Frames: Unit 1, Skill 1
Week 2- Personal Narratives	Lesson 6: Negative memorable moments Lesson 7: What is the structure of a narrative? Lesson 8: Narratives need characters Lesson 9: Narratives need a setting Lesson 10: Narratives have problems	Framing Your Thoughts book • Sentence Frames: Unit 1, Skill 1

Week 3- Personal Narratives	Lesson 11: Narratives have solutions Lesson 12: What will my narrative be about? Lesson 13: Let's plan a narrative Lesson 14: Start with a hook Lesson 15: Writing an introduction	Framing Your Thoughts book • Sentence Frames: Unit 1, Skill 2 A-D
Week 4- Personal Narratives	Lesson 16: Show don't tell Lesson 17: Stretching sentences Lesson 18: Using dialogue Lesson 19: Powerful paragraphs Lesson 20: Transition words	Framing Your Thoughts book • Sentence Frames: Unit 1, Skill 2 A-D
Week 5- Personal Narratives	Lesson 21: Writing an ending Lesson 22: Putting it all together Lesson 23: Revise and edit Lesson 24: Final draft and	Framing Your Thoughts book • Sentence Frames: Unit 1, Skill 2 A-D

	illustrations Lesson 25: Publishing Party	
Week 1- Opinion Writing	Lesson 1: What is opinion writing Lesson 2: Would you rather? Lesson 3: My favorites Lesson 4: Which is better? Lesson 5: Opinions need reasons	Framing Your Thoughts • Review any skills needed • Mastery section in the back
Week 2: Opinion Writing	Lesson 6: Three good reasons Lesson 7: Reasons need details Lesson 8: Writing a book review Lesson 9: Fact vs opinion Lesson 10: Opinion vs reason	Framing Your Thoughts • Review any skills needed • Mastery section in the back
Week 3: Opinion Writing	Lesson 11: Lets make a plan Lesson 12: My favorite movie Lesson 13: The structure of	Framing Your Thoughts • Review any skills needed • Mastery section in the back

	opinion writing Lesson 14: OREO opinion writing Lesson 15: Let's brainstorm	
Week 4: Opinion Writing	Lesson 16: Introduce your topic Lesson 17: Providing reasons Lesson 18: Support your reasons Lesson 19: Linking words Lesson 20: Let's use paragraph	Framing Your Thoughts • Review any skills needed • Mastery section in the back
Week 5: Opinion Writing	Lesson 21: Time for a closing Lesson 22: Putting it all together Lesson 23: Revise, edit, and add more detail Lesson 24: Final Draft Lesson 25: Publishing Party	Framing Your Thoughts • Review any skills needed • Mastery section in the back

Google Drive Link for all lesson plans and resources:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Dwdwhv68qg38DWFx_ukQ_soJcMBMtvZV?usp=drive_link

Assessments

Rubric for Personal Narratives:



Rubric for Opinion Writing:



Spiraling for Mastery

Personal Narrative Spiraling for Mastery:

1. Identifying and focusing on small moments: Teach students to select specific, meaningful events rather than broad topics for their narratives

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2. Developing characters and settings: Guide students to elaborate on themselves as the main character and describe other people in their story. Help them create vivid settings using sensory details.
3. Understanding narrative structure: Teach students about the components of a narrative, including introduction, problem, solution, and conclusion.
4. Using hooks: Instruct students on how to start their narratives with engaging openings to capture the reader's attention.

5. Incorporating dialogue: Teach students how to use and punctuate dialogue correctly to bring their stories to life.
6. Employing descriptive language: Encourage students to use vivid language and "show, don't tell" techniques to make their narratives more engaging.
7. Using transition words: Introduce and practice using transitional phrases to connect ideas smoothly throughout the narrative.
8. Crafting effective paragraphs: Teach students how to organize their thoughts into well-structured paragraphs.
9. Writing strong introductions and conclusions: Guide students in creating compelling openings and satisfying endings for their narratives.
10. Revising and editing: Teach students to review and improve their work, focusing on different elements in each revision pass.
11. Using graphic organizers: Implement various planning tools to help students organize their thoughts before writing.

Opinion Writing Spiraling for Mastery

1. Identifying and stating an opinion clearly: Teach students to express their viewpoint on a topic concisely and confidently.
2. Providing reasons to support opinions: Guide students in offering logical explanations that back up their stance.
3. Using transition words and phrases: Introduce and practice using words like "because," "therefore," and "for example" to connect ideas smoothly.
4. Organizing ideas into paragraphs: Help students structure their writing with an introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.
5. Creating strong introductions: Teach techniques for engaging openings that clearly state the opinion.
6. Developing effective conclusions: Guide students in summarizing their main points and restating their opinion.
7. Using evidence and examples: Encourage students to incorporate facts, statistics, or personal experiences to strengthen their arguments.
8. Addressing counterarguments: Introduce the concept of acknowledging and responding to opposing viewpoints.
9. Employing persuasive language: Teach students to use convincing words and phrases to make their writing more compelling.
10. Revising and editing: Practice reviewing and improving work, focusing on different elements in each revision pass.
11. Using graphic organizers: Implement various planning tools to help students organize their thoughts before writing.

Career Awareness, Exploration, Preparation, and Training

Personal Narratives

Third graders can develop several aspects of Career Awareness, Exploration, Preparation, and Training through writing personal narratives:

1. Self-awareness: Writing personal narratives allows students to reflect on their experiences, interests, and skills. This self-reflection is a crucial first step in career awareness, as it helps students understand their own strengths and preferences.
2. Career interest exploration: Personal narratives can be tailored to focus on career-related topics, encouraging students to think about and describe jobs or professions they find interesting. This exercise helps expand their knowledge of various career options.
3. Communication skills: Crafting personal narratives develops writing and storytelling abilities, which are essential professional skills applicable to many careers.
4. Goal-setting: Through personal narratives, students can articulate their aspirations and future goals, including potential career paths they might want to pursue.
5. Understanding personal experiences: Writing about their lives helps students recognize how their experiences shape their interests and skills, which can inform future career choices.
6. Connecting personal interests to careers: By writing about their hobbies and passions, students can begin to see how these interests might translate into potential career paths.
7. Developing a growth mindset: Reflecting on personal challenges and achievements in narratives can foster a growth mindset, which is valuable for long-term career development.
8. Introduction to professional skills: The process of planning, drafting, and revising narratives introduces students to important workplace skills like organization, attention to detail, and the ability to accept and incorporate feedback.

While third grade may seem early for career preparation, these writing exercises lay an important foundation for future career exploration and development. They help students begin to understand themselves and the world of work in age-appropriate ways, setting the stage for more focused career awareness activities in later grades.

Opinion Pieces

Third graders can develop several important career awareness and

exploration skills through writing opinion pieces:

1. Critical thinking: Writing opinion pieces helps students analyze information, form judgments, and support their views with reasons and evidence. These critical thinking skills are valuable for exploring and evaluating different career options.
2. Communication: Expressing opinions clearly in writing enhances students' ability to articulate their thoughts and ideas. Effective communication is crucial in nearly all careers.
3. Self-awareness: As students reflect on and express their opinions, they gain insights into their own interests, values, and preferences. This self-awareness is fundamental to career exploration and decision-making.
4. Research skills: To support their opinions, students often need to gather information from various sources. This practice in research can later be applied to investigating potential career paths.
5. Decision-making: Forming and defending opinions helps students practice making choices and supporting their decisions. This skill is essential for future career planning and selection.
6. Persuasion and argumentation: Writing opinion pieces teaches students how to construct logical arguments and persuade others. These skills are valuable in many professional settings.
7. Awareness of different perspectives: Through discussing and debating opinions, students learn about diverse viewpoints. This awareness can help them understand various career roles and work environments.
8. Goal-setting: As students learn to express their opinions on what they want or believe, they indirectly practice setting goals and working towards them. This skill is crucial for career planning and development.
9. Problem-solving: Addressing counterarguments in opinion writing helps students develop problem-solving skills, which are essential in most careers.
10. Creativity: Expressing unique opinions and finding novel ways to support them fosters creativity, a skill valued in many professional fields.

While these skills may not directly relate to specific career paths, they lay a foundation for career awareness and exploration by developing the cognitive and communication abilities necessary for future career preparation and training.

Life Literacies & Key Skills

Personal Narratives

Writing personal narratives in 3rd grade helps develop several important life literacies and key skills:

1. Self-reflection and self-awareness: Personal narratives require students to reflect on their own experiences, thoughts, and feelings, fostering greater self-awareness.
2. Storytelling and communication: Students learn how to structure and convey a coherent narrative, enhancing their overall communication skills.
3. Descriptive language: Writing personal narratives encourages the use of vivid, descriptive language to bring experiences to life.
4. Sequencing and organization: Students practice organizing events in a logical sequence, an important skill for both writing and general planning.
5. Emotional intelligence: By exploring and expressing their feelings in writing, students develop emotional awareness and vocabulary.
6. Perspective-taking: Personal narratives allow students to consider how others might perceive events, fostering empathy and understanding.
7. Memory and recall: The process of writing about personal experiences strengthens memory skills and the ability to recall details.
8. Critical thinking: Students learn to select relevant details and experiences to include in their narratives, honing their critical thinking abilities.
9. Revision and editing: The writing process teaches students to revise and edit their work, developing attention to detail and perseverance.
10. Digital literacy: When using computers or other devices for writing and research, students enhance their technological skills.
11. Cultural awareness: Sharing personal narratives in the classroom can increase understanding and appreciation of diverse experiences and backgrounds.
12. Confidence building: Successfully crafting and sharing personal stories can boost students' confidence in their writing abilities and self-expression.

These skills and literacies developed through personal narrative writing contribute to students' overall growth as communicators, thinkers, and individuals, preparing them for future academic and personal challenges.

Opinion Writing:

Life Literacies and Key Skills that 3rd graders can develop through writing opinion pieces:

1. Critical thinking and reasoning: Students learn to form and support their opinions with evidence and logical arguments.
2. Communication skills: Writing opinion pieces helps students articulate

their thoughts clearly and persuasively.
3. Research and information literacy: Students gather facts and information to support their opinions, developing research skills.
4. Digital literacy: Third graders may use computers and digital tools to research topics and publish their writing.
5. Organization and planning: Students learn to structure their thoughts and writing using graphic organizers and outlines.
6. Revision and editing: The writing process teaches students to refine and improve their work through multiple drafts.
7. Collaboration: Students may engage in peer review and discussions about their opinions, fostering teamwork.
8. Time management: Working on writing projects over various time frames helps develop time management skills.
9. Self-reflection: Students learn to evaluate their own work and opinions, developing metacognitive skills.
10. Civic literacy: Writing about issues that matter to them can increase students' awareness of community and societal topics.

These skills are essential for academic success and future careers, helping 3rd graders develop important life literacies that will serve them well beyond the classroom.

Interdisciplinary Connections

Personal Narratives:

Third graders make several interdisciplinary connections when writing personal narratives. These connections span multiple subjects and skills, enhancing their overall learning experience. Here are some key interdisciplinary connections:

Language Arts and Writing Skills

- Narrative Techniques: Students learn to use narrative techniques, descriptive details, and clear event sequences to develop their stories. This includes establishing a situation, introducing characters, using dialogue, and providing closure.
- Descriptive Language: They practice using sensory details (sight, sound, taste, touch, smell) to enrich their narratives, which is also reinforced in poetry and other writing activities.
- Grammar and Syntax: Writing personal narratives helps students improve their grammar, including the use of conjunctions, adjectives, pronouns, and adverbs.

Social Studies

- Connecting Personal Experiences with Historical Context: Students can

draw connections between their personal experiences and broader social studies themes, such as community, family, and cultural traditions.
- Purposeful Writing: Integrating writing with social studies topics, such as creating advertisements for goods and services, helps students understand economic concepts and the importance of audience and purpose in writing.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

- Self-Awareness and Reflection: Writing personal narratives encourages students to reflect on their own experiences and emotions, fostering self-awareness and emotional intelligence.
- Empathy and Perspective-Taking: By sharing and reading each other's narratives, students learn to appreciate different perspectives and develop empathy for their peers.

Creative Arts

- Integration with Visual and Performing Arts: Students can incorporate elements of art, such as drawing or acting out scenes from their narratives, which enhances their understanding and expression of the story.
- Figurative Language: Lessons on similes, metaphors, personification, and alliteration in poetry can be applied to personal narratives, enriching the language and creativity of their writing.

Real-World Applications

- Authentic Audiences: Writing for real-world purposes, such as creating a product advertisement or a community project, helps students understand the practical applications of their writing skills and motivates them to engage more deeply with their work.

By making these interdisciplinary connections, third graders not only improve their writing skills but also gain a deeper understanding of other subjects and develop essential life skills.

Opinion Writing:

There are several interdisciplinary connections that third graders can make when writing opinion pieces:

Math connections:

- Using graphs and data to support opinions
- Analyzing poll results or survey data to form opinions

Science connections:

- Writing opinions on environmental topics like climate change
- Studying local wildlife and ecosystems to form opinions

Social Studies connections:

- Analyzing historical events and figures to form opinions
- Writing about civic issues and public policy

Reading/Literature connections:

- Responding to texts by agreeing or disagreeing with the author's point of view
- Using evidence from texts to support opinions

Current Events connections:

- Analyzing news articles and forming opinions on current issues

Art connections:

- Creating media artworks to express opinions on global issues

Physical Education connections:

- Combining math, science and PE by measuring and analyzing physical activities

The goal is to have students draw on knowledge and skills from various subjects to form and support their opinions in writing. This interdisciplinary approach helps students see connections between subjects and apply critical thinking across domains