3rd Grade Writing Trimester 2

Content Area: **ELA**
Course(s): **ELA Grade 3**
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NJSLS ELA

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) for 3rd grade informational writing include the following key standards:

W.3.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

This standard has several sub-components:

W.3.2.A. Introduce a topic and group related information together; include text features (e.g., illustrations, diagrams, captions) when useful to support 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 conclusion

Additionally, there are some related writing standards that support informational writing:

W.3.4. With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose

W.3.5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing

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.

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) for 3rd grade fictional narratives:

NJSLSA.W3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

NJSLSA.W4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

NJSLSA.W5: Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

NJSLSA.W6: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

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

Informational Writing:

Rationale:
The purpose of informational writing is to inform or teach others about a particular topic. It allows writers to share their expertise and knowledge with readers. Informational writing helps students become better writers by requiring them to share ideas outside of themselves and conduct research

Transfer Goals:

Effectively share ideas through writing for a specific audience and purpose. Third grade students should be able to:

- Introduce a topic and group related information together
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details
- Use linking words and phrases to connect ideas
- Provide a concluding statement or section

Select and use important details to support writing. Students should:

- Gather relevant information from multiple sources
- Assess the credibility and accuracy of sources
- Integrate information while avoiding plagiarism

Organize information effectively. This includes:

- Creating a sequence of ideas
- Using a central topic with subtopics
- Including text features that enhance ideas clearly and concisely

Research a topic and elaborate with facts and details. Students should:

- Select topics they have researched that include layers of information
- Plan writing by creating a sequence of ideas
- Draft and revise topics and subtopics
- Cite evidence to support their writing

Write clear and coherent informational texts appropriate to task, purpose, and audience

Fictional Narratives:

Rational:

The rationale for writing fictional narratives in 3rd grade centers on several key educational objectives that foster students' growth as writers and communicators. First, crafting engaging stories allows students to develop essential storytelling skills, helping them understand narrative structure, including the beginning, middle, and end, as well as character development. This process encourages writing independence, as students learn to generate ideas, plan, draft, revise, and edit their narratives autonomously. Additionally, writing fictional narratives enhances communication skills, enabling students to express their thoughts, feelings, and experiences effectively. By drawing inspiration from their real-world observations, students become more creative and observant, which enriches their storytelling. Understanding the key elements of a narrative, such as plot and setting, also enhances their reading comprehension and critical thinking abilities. Ultimately, the goal is to help students develop a writer's identity, instilling a lifelong passion for writing and self-expression that will serve them well in their academic and personal lives.

Transfer Goals:

Transferring Skills to Other Genres
Goal: Students will apply narrative writing skills, such as vivid descriptions and dialogue, to other writing forms (e.g., poetry, essays).
Impact: Promotes versatility in writing and enhances overall writing proficiency.

Fostering Creativity and Imagination
Goal: Encourage students to use their imagination in storytelling.
Impact: Develops creative problem-solving skills and innovative thinking.

Strengthening Peer Collaboration
Goal: Facilitate opportunities for students to share their narratives with peers and receive constructive feedback.
Impact: Enhances collaborative skills and promotes a supportive writing community.

Building Confidence in Writing
Goal: Help students gain confidence in their writing abilities through practice and positive reinforcement.
Impact: Encourages risk-taking in writing and a willingness to experiment with different styles and

genres.

Connecting Writing to Other Subjects
Goal: Integrate narrative writing with subjects like history, science, and art.
Impact: Provides a holistic learning experience and demonstrates the relevance of writing across disciplines.

Enduring Understandings

Informational Writing:

Enduring understandings for 3rd grade informational writing focus on the essential principles and skills that students need to develop to become effective writers. These understandings help guide the instructional goals and objectives for teaching informational writing at this grade level. Here are some key enduring understandings for 3rd grade informational writing:

1. Purpose of Informational Writing:
    - Writers understand that the purpose of informational writing is to inform and educate the reader about a specific topic. They aim to make the reader an expert on the chosen topic by providing clear and accurate information.
2. Structure and Organization:
    - Writers know how to introduce a topic clearly and group related information together. They use text features such as headings, subheadings, and illustrations to organize and present information effectively.
3. Development of Content:
    - Writers develop their topics with facts, definitions, and details. They understand the importance of using precise language and specific information to explain their topic thoroughly.
4. Use of Linking Words and Phrases:
    - Writers use linking words and phrases (e.g., also, another, and, more, but) to connect ideas within categories of information, ensuring that their writing flows logically and coherently.
5. Revision and Editing:
    - Writers recognize that writing is a multi-stage process that involves drafting, revising, and editing. They understand that revision helps to clarify and enhance their writing, while editing ensures correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
6. Audience Awareness:
    - Writers consider their audience when crafting their informational texts. They understand how the needs and interests of the audience influence the format and content of their writing.
7. Reflection and Evaluation:
    - Writers reflect on their writing and use feedback to improve their work. They understand the importance of evaluating their writing to ensure it meets the intended purpose and

effectively communicates the information.

These enduring understandings form the foundation for teaching and learning informational writing in 3rd grade, helping students to develop the skills necessary to communicate information clearly and effectively.

Fictional Narratives:

The key enduring understandings for 3rd grade fictional narrative writing are:

1. Stories are worth telling and writing about. Students will understand that the details of their lives and thoughts are valuable material for writing.
2. Writing is a multi-stage process. Students will learn that a completed piece of writing develops from the seed of an idea through multiple stages.
3. Writers use specific techniques and strategies. Students will understand that writers can learn techniques by studying published writing (mentor texts) and apply various strategies to develop their stories.
4. Character development is crucial. Writers develop characters by creating internal and external traits, showing motivations and struggles, and creating scenes that reveal the character.
5. Story structure matters. Writers often use tools like story mountains to plan and structure their narratives, representing traditional story structure.
6. Revision is an essential part of writing. Students will understand that revision ensures the writing conveys the intended meaning and allows writers to gain insight and expand a topic for the audience's benefit.
7. Writers consider their audience. Students will learn to ask themselves what will work best for their audience when crafting their stories.
8. Collaboration improves writing. Writers talk about their writing with others in order to improve and expand their ideas.
9. Editing enhances the author's message. Students will understand the importance of editing in improving their writing.
10. Writing should be celebrated. Students will learn that writing should be recognized and celebrated by others, emphasizing the value of their work.

These enduring understandings help guide 3rd grade students in developing their skills in fictional narrative writing, focusing on the entire writing process from idea generation to final publication.

Essential Questions

Informational Writing:

Here are some key essential questions for 3rd grade informational writing:

1. What is informative writing?
2. What is a fact? How is a fact different from an opinion?

3. How do I write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly?
4. How do I identify and introduce a topic for the intended audience?
5. How do I develop and analyze a topic using facts, definitions, details, quotations, examples, and multimedia?
6. How do I organize ideas, concepts, and information using strategies like definition, classification, compare/contrast, and cause/effect?
7. How do I use appropriate transitions to clarify relationships among ideas and concepts?
8. How do I provide a concluding statement or section?
9. How do I write with an awareness of style, using precise language and domain-specific vocabulary?
10. How do I gather relevant information from multiple sources and assess their credibility?
11. How do I quote or paraphrase information while avoiding plagiarism?

These essential questions focus on the key components of informational writing for 3rd grade students, including understanding what informative writing is, using facts and details, organizing information clearly, developing appropriate style and vocabulary, and properly citing sources. They guide students through the process of creating well-structured and informative pieces of writing.

Fictional Narratives:

Essential questions for 3rd-grade writing fictional narratives focus on guiding students to think critically about their writing process and the elements of storytelling. Here are some key questions that can help shape their narrative writing:

1. What makes a good story?
    - This question encourages students to consider the elements that contribute to an engaging narrative, such as plot, characters, and setting.
2. How do we create characters that readers care about?
    - Students can explore character development, motivations, and how to make characters relatable or interesting.
3. What is the importance of a clear beginning, middle, and end in a story?
    - This question helps students understand story structure and the flow of events.
4. How can we use descriptive language to enhance our narratives?
    - Encouraging the use of sensory details and vivid descriptions can help students paint a clearer picture for their readers.
5. What role does dialogue play in storytelling?
    - Students can learn how dialogue can reveal character traits and advance the plot.
6. How do we build tension and excitement in our stories?
    - This question prompts students to think about pacing and conflict, essential elements that keep readers engaged.
7. Why is it important to revise and edit our writing?
    - Understanding the revision process helps students appreciate the importance of refining their work for clarity and impact.
8. How can we connect our personal experiences to fictional narratives?
    - This encourages students to draw from their own lives to create authentic stories, even when writing fiction.
9. Who is our audience, and how does that influence our writing?
    - Discussing audience awareness helps students tailor their narratives to engage specific

readers.

10. What themes or messages do we want to convey through our stories?
    - This question allows students to think about the deeper meaning behind their narratives and what they want their readers to take away.

These questions can be integrated into writing workshops and discussions, helping students to reflect on their writing and develop their skills as narrative writers

Content & Activities

Week	Suggested Lessons	Framing Your Thoughts
Week 1 (Informational Writing)	Lesson 1:What is informational writing? Lesson 2:Is it informational writing? Lesson 3:I am an expert Lesson 4:Narrowing the topic Lesson 5:Choosing subtopics	Framing Your Thoughts • Review sentence frames • Review subjects • Action predicates 3a & 3b
Week 2 (Informational Writing)	Lesson 6:Dinosaur definitions Lesson 7:Finding facts Lesson 8:Supporting details Lesson 9:Planning time Lesson 10:All about dinosaurs	Framing Your Thoughts • Review sentence frames • Review subjects • Action predicates 3a & 3b
Week 3 (Informational Writing)	Lesson 11:Let’s research Lesson 12:Paraphrasing Lesson 13:Let’s use paragraphs Lesson 14:Illustrations and annotations Lesson 15:All about	Framing Your Thoughts • Review sentence frames • Review subjects • Action predicates 3a & 3b

	planets	
Week 4 (Informational Writing)	Lesson 16:It's time for research Lesson 17:Making a plan Lesson 18:Introduce your topic Lesson 19:Linking words Lesson 20:Table of contents	Framing Your Thoughts • Review sentence frames • Review subjects • Action predicates 3a & 3b
Week 5 (Informational Writing)	Lesson 21:Time for a closing Lesson 22:Putting it altogether Lesson 23:Revise,edit, and add more detail Lesson 24: Final draft Lesson 25:Publishing Party	Framing Your Thoughts • Review sentence frames • Review subjects • Action predicates 3a & 3b
Week 1 (Fictional Narratives)	Lesson 1:What is a fictional narrative? Lesson 2:What can I write about? Lesson 3:What is the structure of a narrative? Lesson 4:Narratives need characters Lesson 5:Narratives need a setting	Framing Your Thoughts • Unit 1, Skill 4a,b,c - Sentence Formula • Unit 1, Skill 5 - Substitute Namers for the Subject
Week 2 (Fictional Narratives)	Lesson 6:Narratives need a problem Lesson 7:Narratives need a solution Lesson 8:What is a story arc? Lesson 9:Adding	Framing Your Thoughts • Unit 1, Skill 4a,b,c - Sentence Formula • Unit 1, Skill 5 - Substitute Namers for the Subject

	suspense Lesson 10:Point of view	
Week 3 (Fictional Narratives)	Lesson 11:What will my narrative be about? Lesson 12:Let's plan a narrative Lesson 13:Start with a hook Lesson 14:Writing an introduction Lesson 15:Show, don't tell	Framing Your Thoughts • Unit 2, Skills 1-6 - Review Predicate Expanders
Week 4 (Fictional Narratives)	Lesson 16:Better vocab Lesson 17:Stretching sentences Lesson 18:Using dialogue Lesson 19:Powerful paragraphs Lesson 20:Linking words	Framing Your Thoughts • Unit 2, Skills 1-6 - Review Predicate Expanders
Week 5 (Fictional Narratives)	Lesson 21:Writing an ending Lesson 22:Putting it altogether Lesson 23:Revise and edit Lesson 24: Final draft and illustrations Lesson 25:Publishing party	Framing Your Thoughts • Unit 2, Skills 1-6 - Review Predicate Expanders

Please find all needed materials for the above lessons on this google drive folder:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Dwdwhv68qg38DWFx_ukQ_soJcMBMtvZV?usp=sharing

Assessments

Spiraling for Mastery

Informational Writing:

Focus on core informational writing skills:

- Introducing a topic clearly
- Grouping related information together
- Including illustrations to aid comprehension
- Developing the topic with facts, definitions, and details
- Using linking words and phrases to connect ideas
- Providing a concluding statement or section

Use mentor texts and exemplars:

- Analyze informational texts like Time for Kids magazines to identify key features
- Have students examine multiple texts on similar topics to see how content and purpose determine writing style

Implement a writer's workshop approach:

- Allow students to choose interesting topics they want to research and write about
- Provide mini-lessons on specific informational writing skills
- Give time for independent writing practice
- Conduct small group and individual conferences

Spiral writing skills across the curriculum:

- Incorporate informational writing into science journals, social studies projects, etc.
- Assign cross-curricular writing tasks like creating travel brochures or historical letters
- Use morning work, centers, and homework to revisit previously taught writing skills

Use formative assessments to guide instruction:

- Give short informational writing prompts to check understanding
- Use rubrics aligned to grade-level standards to assess student progress
- Provide targeted feedback and reteaching based on assessment results

Provide scaffolding and support:

- Use graphic organizers to help students plan their writing
- Teach note-taking skills for research
- Model the writing process through think-alouds

Make connections to reading comprehension:

- Have students identify text features and structures in informational texts they read
- Practice summarizing main ideas and supporting details

Fictional Narratives:

Start with foundational skills and build complexity over time:

- Begin with basic story elements like characters, setting, problem/solution
- Gradually introduce more advanced techniques like dialogue, descriptive language, and plot development
- Revisit and reinforce previously taught skills throughout the year

Use mentor texts and anchor charts:

- Analyze high-quality fictional stories as models
- Create visual references for story structure, dialogue rules, etc.
- Refer back to these resources regularly

Incorporate mini-lessons on specific skills:

- Teach focused lessons on elements like character development, writing strong leads, adding sensory details, etc.
- Provide opportunities for students to immediately apply the skill in their own writing

Spiral writing practice across subjects:

- Assign creative writing tasks in other content areas like science or social studies
- Have students write fictional stories related to topics they're studying

Use graphic organizers and planning tools:

- Provide story maps, plot diagrams, and other visual aids
- Teach students to plan their stories before drafting

Implement regular writing workshops:

- Dedicate time for students to write independently
- Conference with students to provide individualized feedback

- Allow peer sharing and feedback sessions

Assign varied writing prompts and tasks:

- Mix up the types of fictional stories students write (e.g. adventure, mystery, fantasy)
- Incorporate writing activities in centers, morning work, and projects

Provide opportunities for revision and editing:

- Teach specific revision strategies
- Have students work with partners to give and receive feedback

Celebrate student writing:

- Create opportunities for students to share finished stories
- Publish student work in class books or online

Career Awareness, Exploration, Preparation, and Training

Informational Writing:

Age-appropriate career exploration:
At this age, students can begin learning about different types of jobs and career paths in a simple, engaging way. Introduce various occupations through informational writing activities that allow students to research and write about careers that interest them.

Skill-based approach:
Focus on helping students understand the skills needed for different jobs rather than specific career titles. This can include both hard skills (like math or writing) and soft skills (like communication or teamwork).

Writing prompts:
Use creative writing prompts to encourage students to think about careers. For example:

- Describe your dream job and why you'd like to do it
- Write about a day in the life of someone with an interesting career
- Explain what skills you think are important for a particular job

Graphic organizers:
Utilize graphic organizers to help students structure their informational writing about careers. These can

help students organize their thoughts and research findings.

Research projects:
Assign simple research projects where students can explore a career of their choice and write an informative essay about it. This can include information such as:

- What the job involves
- Skills needed for the job
- Education or training required
- Best and most challenging parts of the job

Connecting to real-life experiences:
Encourage students to write about jobs they see in their community or jobs held by family members. This helps make career exploration more relatable and concrete for young learners.

Future-oriented thinking:
While keeping it age-appropriate, prompt students to think about how they might prepare for a career they're interested in. This can include writing about subjects they need to study or skills they should develop.

Informative essay structure:
Teach students the basic structure of an informative essay using the INFORM acronym:
I - Introduction
N - Notable facts
F - Focused details
O - Organized information
R - Restating main ideas
M - Meaningful conclusion

By incorporating these elements into 3rd grade informational writing activities, teachers can effectively introduce career awareness, exploration, preparation, and training concepts in an age-appropriate and engaging manner.

Fictional Narratives:

1. Have students write stories where the main character explores different careers or job shadowing experiences. The narrative could focus on the character learning about various jobs and discovering their interests and skills.
2. Encourage students to create fictional narratives about characters pursuing their dream jobs or

overcoming obstacles to achieve career goals. This allows them to imagine future career paths while practicing narrative writing skills.

3. Assign writing prompts that ask students to imagine themselves in different careers and write a "day in the life" story. For example: "Write a story about a day in your life as a veterinarian/teacher/chef/etc."

4. Have students write stories that incorporate characters in various occupations, allowing them to research and learn about different careers as part of the writing process.

5. Create writing assignments where students interview family members or community members about their jobs and then write fictional narratives inspired by what they learned.

6. Encourage students to write stories that showcase skills and qualities needed for success in different careers, such as problem-solving, teamwork, or creativity.

7. Assign collaborative writing projects where small groups create stories about characters working together in a particular field or industry.

By integrating career awareness themes into fictional narrative writing, 3rd grade students can explore potential career paths while developing their creative writing and storytelling abilities. The key is to make the assignments engaging and age-appropriate while still exposing students to a variety of career options and workplace skills.

Life Literacies & Key Skills

Informational Writing:

1. Research Skills: Teaching students how to conduct research is crucial. This includes identifying reliable sources, taking notes, and organizing information. Educators can introduce students to various types of informational texts, such as articles and nonfiction books, to help them understand how to extract relevant information.

2. Writing Structure: Students should learn to structure their writing with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion.

3. Text Features: Familiarizing students with text features such as headings, bullet points, and captions enhances their understanding of how to present information effectively. Analyzing mentor texts can help students see these features in action.

4. Writing Process: Encourage students to engage in the writing process, which includes brainstorming, drafting, revising, and editing. Providing graphic organizers can help them plan their writing and ensure that their ideas are logically organized.

Fictional Narratives:

1. Effective communication: Students learn to express their ideas clearly and engage in collaborative discussions, building on others' ideas.
2. Critical thinking: Students practice asking and answering questions, making relevant connections, and demonstrating understanding of texts.
3. Creativity: Writing narratives allows students to develop real or imagined experiences using descriptive details and clear event sequences.
4. Digital literacy: Students use technology to produce and publish writing, as well as interact and collaborate with others.
5. Research skills: Students conduct short research projects to build knowledge about topics and gather information from various sources.
6. Planning and organization: Students learn to plan, revise, and edit their writing, developing the writing process used by authors.
7. Time management: Students practice writing over extended time frames and shorter periods, learning to manage their time effectively.
8. Adaptability: Students learn to write for various tasks, purposes, and audiences, developing flexibility in their writing approach.
9. Self-expression: Narrative writing allows students to explore and express their thoughts, feelings, and experiences.
10. Vocabulary development: Students learn to use linking words, phrases, and temporal words to connect ideas and signal event order.

Interdisciplinary Connections

Informational Writing:

1. Science and Social Studies: Use science and social studies topics as the content for informational writing pieces. For example, students could write about:

- The water cycle (science)

- Animal habitats (science)

- Historical figures or events (social studies)

- Communities and government (social studies)

2. Math: Incorporate data, measurements, and statistics into informational writing. Students can:

- Include charts, graphs or timelines
- Use numerical facts and figures
- Describe mathematical concepts related to the topic

3. Art: Integrate visual elements to enhance informational writing:

- Create illustrations or diagrams to accompany the text
- Use appropriate text features like captions, labels, and headings
- Design an appealing layout for the final product

4. Technology: Utilize digital tools for research and publishing:

- Use online resources to gather information on topics
- Create digital presentations or ebooks of informational writing
- Publish writing on classroom blogs or websites

5. English Language Arts: Focus on key writing skills while addressing content from other subjects:

- Introduce topics clearly and group related information
- Develop topics with facts, definitions, and details
- Use linking words and phrases to connect ideas
- Provide concluding statements

6. Research Skills: Teach students to:

- Gather information from multiple sources

- Take notes on important facts and details

- Organize information into categories

- Cite sources appropriately

By integrating these interdisciplinary connections, teachers can create engaging and meaningful informational writing experiences that reinforce learning across multiple subject areas. This approach helps students see the relevance of writing skills while deepening their understanding of various topics.

Fictional Narratives:

1. Integrate social studies and science content into narrative writing: Use social studies or science topics as settings or themes for fictional narratives

2. Connect with visual arts: Use visual prompts like pictures to inspire story ideas

3. Incorporate math concepts: Include mathematical problem-solving or concepts within the plot of stories

4. Link to music and performing arts: Use songs or musical pieces as inspiration for story settings or moods

5. Combine with informational writing: Include factual information within fictional narratives to reinforce learning from other subjects

6. Connect to authentic audiences and real-world writing: Encourage students to write for specific audiences beyond the classroom

7. Use technology: Incorporate digital tools for drafting, revising, and publishing stories

By making these interdisciplinary connections, teachers can help students see the relevance of narrative writing across subjects and engage them in more meaningful, contextualized learning experiences. This approach also allows for efficient use of instructional time by addressing multiple learning objectives simultaneously