

03 Art of Information Writing

Content Area: **ELA**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Full Year**
Length: **24 days**
Status: **Published**

UNIT ORIENTATION

This unit builds upon the skills students have learned as writers of information in 2nd grade. It is centered on a particular type of information writing--a structured, written-to-teach, expert-based project. During the unit you will teach students a handful of qualities of strong informational writing. Students will learn to write introductions, organize information, and include text features that help their readers. Students will also be taught many different ways to elaborate on their topics through the use of facts, definitions, and other important details, but also through the use of descriptions and anecdotes. Initially, students will be guided through the writing process, with guidance from teachers. There is an extensive amount of time spent teaching students' various strategies for "planning, revising, and editing". By the end of the unit, students will be pushed toward independence and transference.

Enduring Understandings

Writers organize information to assist them in the writing process.

Writers use mentor texts, make connections within and across chapters, and research topics to enhance their writing.

Writers use a variety of revising and editing strategies to ensure accuracy of facts and clarification for reads.

Writers transfer gained knowledge from longer research projects and apply it to shorter ones

Essential Questions

How can I teach someone else about a topic I have researched?

What strategies do writers use when writing an informational book?

What can I learn from a mentor text to help me write an information book?

CONTENT AREA STANDARDS

Key Ideas and Details

RL.3.1. Ask and answer questions, and make relevant connections to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RL.3.2. Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message/theme, lesson, or moral and explain how it is revealed through key details in the text.

RL.3.3. Describe the characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the plot.

Craft and Structure

RL.3.4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

RL.3.5. Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.

RL.3.6. Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

RL.3.7. Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).

RL.3.8. (Not applicable to literature)

RL.3.9. Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g. practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) the central message/theme, lesson, and/ or moral, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series).

Range of Reading and Complexity of Text

RL.3.10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.

Progress Indicators for Reading Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

RI.3.1. Ask and answer questions, and make relevant connections to demonstrate understanding of a text,

referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RI.3.2. Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

RI.3.3. Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

Craft and Structure

RI.3.4. Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

RI.3.5. Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.

RI.3.6. Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

RI.3.7. Use information gained from text features (e.g., illustrations, maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur). RI.3.8. Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence) to support specific points the author makes in a text.

RI.3.9. Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g. practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.

Range of Reading and Complexity of Text

RI.3.10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.

Reading Foundational Skills

Phonics and Word Recognition

RF.3.3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding and encoding words. A. Identify and know the meaning of the most common prefixes and derivational suffixes. B. Decode words with common Latin suffixes. C. Decode multisyllable words. D. Read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.

Fluency

RF.3.4. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension. A. Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding. B. Read grade-level prose and poetry orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression. C. Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

RELATED STANDARDS (Technology, 21st Century Life & Careers, ELA Companion Standards are Required)

CRP.K-12.CRP7.1	Career-ready individuals are discerning in accepting and using new information to make decisions, change practices or inform strategies. They use reliable research process to search for new information. They evaluate the validity of sources when considering the use and adoption of external information or practices in their workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP8.1	Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem. They are aware of problems when they occur and take action quickly to address the problem; they thoughtfully investigate the root cause of the problem prior to introducing solutions. They carefully consider the options to solve the problem. Once a solution is agreed upon, they follow through to ensure the problem is solved, whether through their own actions or the actions of others.
CRP.K-12.CRP9.1	Career-ready individuals consistently act in ways that align personal and community-held ideals and principles while employing strategies to positively influence others in the workplace. They have a clear understanding of integrity and act on this understanding in every decision. They use a variety of means to positively impact the directions and actions of a team or organization, and they apply insights into human behavior to change others' action, attitudes and/or beliefs. They recognize the near-term and long-term effects that management's actions and attitudes can have on productivity, morals and organizational culture.
SOC.K-4.1.3.1	Distinguish fact from fiction.
SOC.K-4.1.3.2	Identify and interpret a variety of primary and secondary sources for reconstructing the past (i.e., documents, letters, diaries, maps, photos, etc.).
TECH.8.1.5.A.1	Select and use the appropriate digital tools and resources to accomplish a variety of tasks including solving problems.
TECH.8.1.5.A.CS2	Select and use applications effectively and productively.

EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

Alternate Assessments

- Portfolios
- Verbal Assessment (instead of written)

- Multiple choice
- Modified Rubrics
- Performance Based Assessments

Summative Assessments

Published Pieces

Rubrics

NJSLA

Open Ended Responses

Written responses

Formative Assessments

Checklists

- Conferences
- Class Discussions
- Exit Slips
- Interactive Notebooks
- Quizzes
- Reflections
- Review of classwork/homework
- Student Participation
- Teacher Observations

- Text Dependent Questions

Benchmark Assessments

- iXL
- Edulastic

RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)

Teachers College Units of Study

Interactive notebooks

Mentor texts

Writer's notebooks

Chromebooks

IXL

Readworks

EPIC

Mentor Texts about promoting self-esteem - SEL - what you are good at such as: [A Reason to Shine](#); [The Almost Impossible Thing](#); [We're All Wonders](#)

ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS

Special Education:

Provide modified notes and access to extra copies online

Provide oral reminders and check student work during independent work time

Model skills/techniques to be mastered

Check and sign assignment planner

Preferential seating

Pair visual prompts with verbal presentations

Modified or scaffolded homework and classwork

Extended time as needed

Provide graphic organizers and study guides

English Learners:

Provide scaffolded assignments and assessments

Pair visual prompts with visual presentations

Check and sign assignment planner

Extended time for assignment and assessment as needed

Highlight key vocabulary

Use graphic organizers

Provide verbal and written directions

Preferential seating with a English-speaking peer

At Risk of Failure:

Encourage class participation and reinforce skills

Model skills and assignments

Extended to time to complete class work

Preferential seating

Provide extra help outside of class and 1:1 instruction when needed

Communicate regularly with students' other teachers

Provide positive feedback for tasks well done

Encourage student to proofread assessments and projects and ask for teacher proofreading of large writing assignments

Gifted and Talented:

Pose higher-level thinking questions

Provide higher level reading and writing materials for literacy based activities

Probe student to extend thinking beyond the text or connect two or more texts

Provide alternate or project-based assessments and assignments

Students with 504 Plans

Provide extended time as needed

Modify length of writing assignment

Provide short breaks within the lesson

Provide scaffolding for students

Utilize graphic organizers

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS

Technology/Multi-Media: Media Literacy; Research-based Writing

Math: Data Collection

Social Studies: Autobiographical Studies; Historical Events; Current Events