

# 03\_Nonfiction Writing Copied from: Creative Writing 1, Copied on: 11/15/23

Content Area: **TEMPLATE**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **3 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## General Overview, Course Description or Course Philosophy

### OBJECTIVES, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

Students will understand:

- Nonfiction creative writing does not require an event to happen
- We are all full of true and interesting stories, experiences, and thoughts
- How you tell a story is just as important as the story itself

### CONTENT AREA STANDARDS

L.11-12.3. 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. A. Vary syntax for effect, apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts.

L.11-12.4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11–12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

A. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

B. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable).

C. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage.

D. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

L.11-12.5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. A. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text. B. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

L.11-12.6. 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.

W.11-12.10. 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

W.11-12.4. 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.)

W.11-12.5. 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.

W.11-12.6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.

W.11-12.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

A. Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

B. Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

C. Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.

D. Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.

E. 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.

F. Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

LA.RL.11-12.3	Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).
LA.RL.11-12.5	Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
LA.RI.11-12.5	Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument, including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging.
LA.W.11-12.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
LA.W.11-12.3.A	Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
LA.W.11-12.3.B	Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
LA.W.11-12.3.C	Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).
LA.W.11-12.3.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.W.11-12.3.E	Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.
LA.W.11-12.4	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.11-12.5	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.11-12.10	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.
LA.SL.11-12.1	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
LA.L.11-12.3	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.

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

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The mode of information can convey a message to consumers or an audience.

Some digital tools are appropriate for gathering, organizing, analyzing, and presenting information, while other types of digital tools are appropriate for creating text, visualizations, models, and communicating with others.

## **STUDENT LEARNING TARGETS**

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Refer to the 'Declarative Knowledge' and 'Procedural Knowledge' sections.

### **Declarative Knowledge**

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Students will understand that:

- Prose can be poetic
- “Boring” stories can be engaging when well written
- The elements of a story need to be considered even when transcribing the truth
- The different types of nonfiction creative writing
- In spite of our apparent differences, we share very similar stories
- A story does not need to happen to you for you to make it yours
- A story has many sides and can be shared in many different tones

### **Procedural Knowledge**

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Students will be able to:

- Produce clear and coherent works of nonfiction
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in the context of nonfiction, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading, listening, and writing.
- Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative critiques
- Create, develop and strengthen works of nonfiction as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

- Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure works of nonfiction (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

## **EVIDENCE OF LEARNING**

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Refer to the 'Formative Assessments' and 'Summative Assessments' sections.

## **Alternate Assessments**

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- Multimedia Presentations
- Poster Presentations
- Teacher/Student Conferences
- Modified Rubrics

## **Formative Assessments**

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Nonfiction brainstorm

Personal Storytelling

Sample Scenario reactions

Nonfiction excerpt reactions

Nonfiction drafts

Nonfiction evaluations and reflections

Workshop evaluations

## **Summative Assessments**

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Nonfiction analysis

Sample Scenario assignment

Personal nonfiction piece

Person setting description

Personal character sketch

Reflections of student-selected works

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## **RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)**

[The Sample Scenario](#)

Excerpts from David Sedaris, Malcolm Gladwell, Carl Sagan, Ernest Hemingway, Stephen King, Truman Capote, Virginia Woolf, Elizabeth Gilbert, and others

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## **INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS**

Visual Performing Arts	Dramatization
	Mock trials/debates
	Cinematic Analysis
	Visual Language
	Electronic media
	Historical/current art analysis
	Aesthetic Analysis
	Music Appreciation

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## **ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS**

See link to Accommodations & Modifications document in course folder.