

Suggested Mini-Lesson Topics

Grade 4

Lessons are pulled from Grade Level Curriculum Snapshot. They represent concepts that are identified as D (develop) on the District Writing Curriculum. Each lesson could take a single or multiple days. Items in bold are ESSENTIAL LESSONS that all teachers in that grade level MUST TEACH. This is not a sequence. Mini Lessons should be taught in all areas of the Writing Process throughout the school year.

Teachers are encouraged to supplement this list with the specific needs of their writers.

Prewrite

- Generates ideas from verbal/written prompt
- Student considers purpose — **Informs**, Describes, Explains
- **Student considers audience**
- Narrows topic (IDEAS)
- Student gathers information (**References, Technology sources, Interviews**)
- Creates and applies graphic organizers without teacher assistance
- Making Lists, Note taking
- Student considers genre (**Expository: Nonfiction Report (guided research)**)

Draft

- Apply pre-write activities to create draft
- **Create text from ideas** (IDEAS)
- **Student rereads while writing draft**
- Student word processes at the computer
- Student uses genre in drafting
- Student uses developmental spelling

Conference / Reflect

- Student reads own work to improve writing
- **Student shares writing with teacher to receive feedback to improve text**
- Student shares writing with peers to receive feedback to improve text
- Student utilizes trait language within conference

Revise

- Adds text (WORD CHOICE, SENTENCE FLUENCY, VOICE)
- Subtracts text (WORD CHOICE, SENTENCE FLUENCY, VOICE)
- **Organizes writing according to genre and purpose** (ORGANIZATION)
- Adds own personality to writing (VOICE)
- Rewords text (WORD CHOICE, SENTENCE FLUENCY)
- **Adjusts word order for fluency** (SENTENCE FLUENCY, ORGANIZATION)
- **Improves text by using resource materials**

Edit (see Grade Level Convention Chart for editing expectations in previous grades)

- Addresses Capitalization errors:
 - **Proper Nouns (Specific Places, Nationalities, Businesses)**
 - **Abbreviations (Initials)**
 - **First word in direct quotation (dialogue)**

- Identifies and corrects punctuation errors:
 - **Commas**
 - **Quotations**
 - **Introductory words**
 - **Quotation Marks (titles, direct quotes)**
 - **Underlining or italics if word processed (titles, magazines, newspapers)**
 - **Apostrophe possession (regular and irregular)**

- Parts of Speech
 - **Nouns**
 - **Verbs**
 - **Adjectives**

- **Syllabication (poetry)**
- **Utilize grade level editing marks**

Publish

- Applies penmanship and word processing skills
- Provides adequate citations (documents sources informally)
- **Shares writing with self-identified audience, community or organization**
- **Creates an informal title page (title, date, grade, name)**
- Incorporates illustrations, charts, tables, diagrams and graphs by hand
- Presents writing using poster or prop

Genre

Narrative: Nonfiction:

- Writes personal experiences in narrative form (basic plot, setting, 5 W's, descriptive language)
- **Writes in response/reflection to literature (no specified format)**

Narrative: Creative/Expressive:

- Writes in personal journal/writer's notebook
- **Writes poetry according to easy format**

Expository:

- **Creates and writes interviews**
- **Writes summary of a story/book**
- **Writes nonfiction report to inform (multiple sources)**

Genre (continued)

Technical:

- Writes to explain how (simple steps, directions, etc.)
- Writes to explain mathematical thought/action

Timed Writing:

- **Applies writing process in timed situation**
- **Writes in paragraph format in response to written question or prompt (topic sentence, supporting detail, closing sentence)**

Craft

- Reads and rereads own writing as a reader (teacher guided/modeled)
- Reads and rereads literature like a writer
- Selects a craft from an author and applies it in their own writing
- **Uses vocabulary of a writer to name, discuss and apply craft:**

Dialogue

Alliteration

Onomatopoeia

Plot

Repetition, Rhyme, Rhythm

Setting

Simile

Stanza

References

The following is a list of references you can use to find worthwhile min-lessons and/or activities to help you teach **THE WRITING PROCESS**. Remember **Six Traits Lessons** should be taught as part of the writing process...they should not be the focus of **ALL** mini-lessons. Many of these resources are available from your reading specialist or from you building's professional library.

6 + 1 Traits of Writing: The Complete Guide Grades 3 & Up by Ruth Culham
(*Contains Sample Student Writing to Assess)

Craft Lessons: Teaching Writing K-8 by Ralph Fletcher & JoAnn Portalupi

Guiding Readers and Writers: Grades 3-6 by Fountas and Pinnell (*Excellent Resources)

Nonfiction Craft Lessons: Teaching Information Writing K-8 by Ralph Fletcher and JoAnn Portalupi

Teaching the Qualities of Writing by Ralph Fletcher & JoAnn Portalupi (KIT)

*Contains 112 mini-lessons and Teacher's Guide

*Excellent Resources

Scaffolding Young Writers: A Writer's Workshop Approach by Linda J. Dorn & Carla Soffos

Wondrous Words: Writers and Writing in the Elementary Classroom by Katie Wood Ray

Writer's Workshop: Working Through the Hard Parts (and they're all hard parts) by Katie Wood Ray

