

Grades 6-8

PART 1: The First Weeks

Writing Topics

- p. 12 Write for different purposes
- p. 14 Create a memories picture collage
- p. 15 Springboard off other texts
- p. 19 List things wrong in the world

Setting Expectations

- p. 22 Meet for daily instruction
- p. 23 Describe the writing time
- p. 24 Outline sharing time/Author's Chair
- p. 25 Support writers when they need help
- p. 26 Hold teacher-writer meetings

Creating Notebooks

- p. 30 Introduce the writer's notebook

Motivating Writers

- p. 32 Establish a "Done" list

Developing Spelling

- p. 40 Develop independent spellers
- p. 41 Provide topic-driven word charts

Introducing the Traits

- p. 46 Define each trait visually & verbally
- p. 47 Reveal mentor text examples

Building Rubrics

- pp. 52-53 Define "rubric"
- pp. 54-55 Establish an initial writing rubric

The list to the right represents the most essential writing skills teachers should address per writing unit. Take note that these are not *all* of the lessons within Part 2—just the most important ones for ELA grades 6-8, according to the authors of this book.

The majority of these lessons fall within Section 8 (Teaching Ideas) and Section 9 (Teaching Organization). Each writing mode requires that the right information be arranged in the appropriate order. Therefore, skills from Sections 10-13 may be less of a priority when instructional time is limited.

IMPORTANT: The suggested skills listed for grades 6-8 are based on foundational skills being taught in grades 3-5. If students lack that preparation, then middle school ELA teachers will likely need to teach mini-lessons noted in the lower grade-level scaffold on p. 5.

PART 2: The Rest of the Year

Persuasive/Argumentative Mini-Units

- p. 62 Align with the strongest position
 - p. 83 Answer *what* & *why* in constructed responses
 - p. 73 Incorporate citations
 - p. 101 Choose voice based on the P.A.T.
-
- p. 61 Generate a thesis statement
 - p. 84 Adapt Yes, MA'AM to fit longer essays
 - p. 72 Paraphrase author ideas
-
- p. 76 List, group, & label related ideas
 - p. 64 Add "leg" sentences per "table-top" reason
-
- p. 71 Add credibility with expert voices
 - p. 65 Add information with definition details
 - p. 88 Create transitions *within* paragraphs
-
- p. 86 Convert a persuasive to an argument
 - p. 90 Craft persuasive/argumentative introductions
 - p. 91 Craft persuasive/argumentative conclusions

Informative Mini-Units

- pp. 78-79 Organize information sequentially
 - p. 61 Generate a thesis statement
 - p. 64 Add "leg" sentences per "table-top" reason
 - p. 101 Choose voice based on the P.A.T.
-
- p. 76 List, group, & label related ideas
 - p. 71 Add credibility with expert voices
 - p. 72 Paraphrase author ideas
 - p. 73 Incorporate citations
-
- p. 65 Add information with definition details
 - p. 66 Add interest with Snapple® details
 - p. 88 Create transitions *within* paragraphs
-
- p. 82 Organize information categorically
 - p. 92 Craft informative introductions
 - p. 93 Craft informative conclusions
-
- pp. 80-81 Organize compare-contrast information

Enarrative Mini-Units

- p. 60 Narrow down writing topics
 - p. 94 Craft narrative introductions
 - p. 95 Craft narrative conclusions
-
- pp. 78-79 Organize information sequentially
 - p. 101 Choose voice based on the P.A.T.
-
- p. 88 Create transitions *within* paragraphs
 - p. 99 Show actions, don't tell feelings
 - p. 65 Add information with definition details