**Mini-Lessons for the Trait of Ideas**

***Mini-Lessons about Topics to Write About***

 ABC chart of topics

 ME chart

 Inspiration books

 Picture/Photo file

 Topics collage

 Inventory lists

 Silent field trips

 Heart maps/Life maps

 Writing territories (things you know & care about)

 Writing to a prompt

— On-demand, no-choice writing topics

— Decoding a prompt (RUPR)

— Unfamiliar/uninteresting topics

 Writing to communicate (P.A.T.)

 — Writing for a purpose

 — Writing to an audience

 — Writing about a topic

 — Telling stories

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

***Mini-Lessons about Drawing***

 Draw with color detail

 Draw with true-to-life color detail

 Add details to a picture (revision)

 Draw details in proportion

 Draw details in position (above, below)

 Draw using the whole page (spatial details)

 Draw character details

 Draw setting details

 Draw close-up details (eyelashes, fingernails, etc.)

 Draw objects by first seeing them in shapes

 Draw more than one object to represent quantity



***Mini-Lessons about Labeling Images***

 Label with letters

 Label with words

 Pictures match words/letters

 Label the room

 — Objects in the classroom

 — Label pictures in big book

 — Label stickers on a page

 — Label diagram/illustration

***Mini-Lessons to Elaborate Narrative***

 Narrow topic

 Stay on topic (focus)

 Develop ideas completely (coherent, clear)

 ABC details develop an idea (ABC Detail Machine)

 Incorporate details (Pump up the writing)

 — Number details

 — Name details

 — Color details

 — Descriptive details

 — Sensory details (5 senses)

 — Comparison details

 —

 Develop characters (major/minor)

 — Physical description

 — Personality, characteristics, gestures, habits

 — Mood, attitude

 —

  Develop the setting

 — Location, time, season, weather, mood

 —

 Develop the plot

 — Problem/Solution

 — Wish/Want

 — Problem, climax, resolution

***Mini-Lessons to Elaborate on***

***Expository & Persuasive Writing***

 Narrow topic

 Stays on topic (focus)

 Develops ideas completely (coherent, clear)

 ABC details develop an idea (ABC Detail Machine)

 Incorporate details (Pump up the writing)

 — Number details

 — Name details

 — Color details

 — Descriptive details

 — Sensory details (5 senses)

 — Comparison details

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 Identify thesis/purpose/argument

 Reveal position/opinion

 Topic sentences reveal main ideas

 Elaborate with support sentences

 Paraphrase ideas

 Research

 — Note taking

 — Primary & secondary sources

 — Cite relevant evidence

 Types of supporting sentences

 — Giving reasons

 — Providing examples

 — Defining vocabulary terms

 — Revealing statistics (number facts)

 — Describing anecdotes

 — Adding support (quotations)

 ***—*** Explaining/Justifying interpretations

 ***—***

 ***—***

 ***—***

**Mini-Lessons for the Trait of Organization**

***Mini-Lessons about List Writing***

 To-do lists

 Shopping lists

 Sequence lists *(getting ready)*

 Topic/All about lists *(animals, snacks, etc.)*

 Noun lists

 Verb lists

 Adjective lists

 Make lists from photos/pictures

***Mini-Lessons about Focus/Support***

 Select a focus

 Stay on topic

 Organize related ideas

 Arrange ideas

 Unify important ideas

 Use a thematic focus

 Use a time focus

 Progression of ideas

 Topic sentences

 Supporting sentences

 Supporting paragraphs

 Pacing ideas

 Slowing down ideas with snapshots

 Slowing down ideas with thought-shots

***Mini-Lessons about Pre-writing***

 Grocery list details

 BME organizer

 Webbing

 ABC details (organize the sticky notes)

 T-Charts

 Venn diagrams

 Outlining

 Note taking

 Organizing research notes

***Mini-Lessons about Structure***

 Arrange by order of importance

 Topic sentence/Supporting detail organization

 Use subtitles

 Sequence of events/chronological order

 Compare—Contrast organization

 Question—Answer organization

 Problem—Solution organization

 Flashback/Foreshadow organization

 Letter structure

 — Invitation

 — Friendly

 — Thank you

 — Business

 — Persuasive

 Poem structure

 — Haiku poem

 — Concrete poem

 — List poem

 — Acrostic poem

 — Cinquain

 — Limerick

 — Found poem

***Mini-Lessons about Titles***

 Purpose of a title

 Types of titles

 — Character titles

 — Action titles

 — One-word titles

 — Line-from-the-writing titles

 — Setting titles

 — Object titles

 — Question titles

 — Main idea titles

***Mini-Lessons about Introd./Beginnings***

 3-part writing— beginning, middle, ending

 First liners (hooks)

 Types of beginnings

 ­— Question

 — Sound effect

 — Action

 — Descriptive

 — Person

 — Setting

 — Feeling

 — Fact

 Introductory paragraphs

 Thesis statement

 Tie beginnings and endings together

 ***Mini-Lessons about Conclusions/Endings***

 Purpose of an ending

 Types of endings

 —Circle ending

 — Repeat ending

 — Summary ending

 — Feeling ending

 — What I learned ending

 — Question ending

 — Clincher ending

 — Take-action ending

 — So what’s the good news?

 — Echo ending

 — So what? Who cares?

***Mini-Lessons about Transitions***

 Numerical numbers (1, 2, 3)

 Time order words *(first, second, later, after, next)*

 Transition phrases *(later that day, after lunch)*

 Transition sentences

**Mini-Lessons for the Trait of Voice**

***Mini-Lessons about Audience***

 Write to communicate to an audience

 Types of audiences

— Individuals *(principal, teacher, mom, ISTEP Lady)*

— Groups/Organizations *(third grade, ball team)*

— Those that share something in common

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***Mini-Lessons about Writing with Feelings***

 Interpret the writer’s attitude toward the topic

 Use feeling words *(love, like, fun, hate, mad,* etc.)

 Utilize voice-filled conventions

 — Exclamation points reveal writer feeling

 — Underlined words for emphasis

 — Bold words for emphasis

 — All-capital letter writing for emphasis

 — Colored lettering for emphasis

 — Build suspense with ellipses...

 —

 Talking directly to the audience

 — Rhetorical questions asked to the audience

 — Parentheses for audience clarification

 — Emotional appeals to the audience

 — Anticipate & address reader concerns

 Use an appropriate tone for the reader

 — Adjust tone & style for the reader

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***Mini-Lessons about Point of View***

 State your position

 Maintain a consistent point of view

 — Third person

 — Second person

 — First person

 — Character’s point of view

 — Narrator’s point of view

 — Inanimate object’s point of view

 Acknowledge the opposition’s point of view

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**Mini-Lessons for the Trait of Word Choice**

***Mini-Lessons about Collecting Words***

 Notice good words in reading

 Create relevant word banks for writing topics

 List favorite words

 Brainstorm alternative words

 — Avoid redundant words (RIP, retired words)

 — Avoid cliches

 Kid-made thesaurus

 My words book

 Feeling words

 Color words (shades of crayons)

***Mini-Lessons about Precise Language***

 Specific, exact nouns (vs. general)

 Proper nouns (vs. general)

 Varied word choice (synonyms)

 Notice subtle shades of meaning (synonyms)

 Big words (WOW words, purple words)

 Vocabulary specific to subject

 Vocabulary appropriate for audience

 Accurate word choice

***Mini-Lessons about Description***

 Incorporate adjectives

 Sensory descriptions (5 senses)

 Imagery

 “Show, don’t tell” description

 Strong word phrases

 Comparisons (smells like, looks like, tastes like, etc.)

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***Mini-Lessons about Verbs***

 Strong action verbs

 Use of adverbs

 Active voice

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***Mini-Lessons about Unique Word Choice***

 Simple rhymes that work

 Sound effect words (onomatopoeia)

 Made-up words

 Creative phrasing

 — Alliteration

 — Similes

 — Metaphors

 — Personification

 — Idioms

 — Hyperboles

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**Mini-Lessons for the Trait of Sentence Fluency**

***Mini-Lessons about First Sentences***

 Complete thoughts (noun and verb)

 Sentence makes sense (word order)

 Read back what you wrote

 Recognize fragments (incomplete thoughts)

 — Insert words to complete the thought

 Fix run-on sentences

 — Insert punctuation to separate thoughts

 Text wrap words onto the next line

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***Mini-Lessons about Sentence Variety***

 Vary sentence types

 — Declarative

 — Interrogative (question)

 — Exclamatory (exciting)

 Vary sentence structures

 — Simple

 — Compound

 — Complex

 — Compound-Complex

 — Intentional fragment

 Vary sentence beginnings

 Vary sentence length for impact

 — Long sentences for slower thoughts/action

 — Short sentences for fast thoughts/action

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***Mini-Lessons about Musical Fluency***

 Types of figurative language

 — Sound effect words (onomatopoeia)

 — Alliteration

 — Similes

 — Metaphors

 — Personification

 — Idioms

 — Hyperboles

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 Creative phrasing

 Parallel structure

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**Mini-Lessons for the Trait of Conventions**

***Mini-Lessons on Spelling/Letter Formation***

Writing left to right, top to bottom

Consonants vs. vowels

Every sound needs a letter

Every word needs a vowel

Sound-out, first-draft spelling

Word family spelling

Singular vs. plural spelling strategies

Spaces between words

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***Mini-Lessons about Formatting***

 Typestyles

 — Underlining

 — Bolding

 — Italicizing

 Citations; documenting sources

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***Mini-Lessons about Capitals***

 Beginning sentence capitals

 Proper noun capitals

 Stylistic capitals (e.g. shouting, for emphasis)

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***Mini-Lessons about Punctuation***

 End marks

 — Period

 — Question mark

 — Exclamation point

 Apostrophes

 — Contractions

 — Possessives (singular, plural)

 Commas

 — In a series

 — In a compound sentence (conjunction)

 — In dialogue

 — With a dependent clause

 Quotation marks

 — Character dialogue

 — Citing a direct quote

 Parantheses

 — To clarify information for the reader

 — To indicate missing information

 — To cite source

 Ellipses

 — To build suspense

 — To indicate omitted information

 Colons

 Hyphens

 Dashes

 Brackets

 Semicolons





***Mini-Lessons on Parts of Speech***

 Nouns

 — Concrete

 — Abstract

 — Compound

 — Pronouns

 Verbs

 Adjectives

 Adverbs

 Prepositions

 Phrases

 Clauses

 Articles

 Modifiers

 Conjunctions

 Transitions

 Infinitives

 Participles

 Antecedent

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***Mini-Lessons about Grammar***

 Subject-verb agreement

 Noun-verb agreement (singular vs. plural)

 Verb tense consistency

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