

Mount Laurel Language Arts Curriculum
Grade 2

Writing Unit: Essay (Opinion)

Stage 1: Determine the Desired Results

Enduring Understanding(s):

A writer selects a form based on audience and purpose.

Words powerfully affect meaning.

Researchers gather and critique information from different sources for specific purposes.

Essential Question(s):

Why does a writer choose a particular form of writing?

Why do readers need to pay attention to a writer's choice of words?

Why conduct research?

Students will be able to:

Text Types and Purposes

- **W.2.1.** Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., *because, and, also*) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.

Production and Distribution of Writing

- **W.2.4.** (Begins in grade 3)
- **W.2.5.** With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.
- **W.2.6.** With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

- **W.2.7.** Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report; record science observations).
- **W.2.8.** Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
- **W.2.9.** (Begins in grade 4)

Range of Writing

- **W.2.10.** (Begins in grade 3)

Conventions of Standard English

- **L.2.1.** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing

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or speaking.

Use collective nouns (e.g., *group*).

Form and use frequently occurring irregular plural nouns (e.g., *feet, children, teeth, mice, fish*).

Use reflexive pronouns (e.g., *myself, ourselves*).

Form and use the past tense of frequently occurring irregular verbs (e.g., *sat, hid, told*).

Use adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified.

Produce, expand, and rearrange complete simple and compound sentences (e.g., *The boy watched the movie; The little boy watched the movie; The action movie was watched by the little boy*).

- **L.2.2.** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Capitalize holidays, product names, and geographic names.

Use commas in greetings and closings of letters.

Use an apostrophe to form contractions and frequently occurring possessives.

Generalize learned spelling patterns when writing words (e.g., *cage* → *badge*; *boy* → *boil*).

Consult reference materials, including beginning dictionaries, as needed to check and correct spellings.

Knowledge of Language

- **L.2.3.** Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

Compare formal and informal uses of English.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

L.2.6. Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using adjectives and adverbs to describe (e.g., *When other kids are happy that makes me happy*).

8.1 Interdisciplinary Connection: Educational Technology

All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge.

Integration of 21st Century Themes and Skills:

- CRP6. Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
- CRP5. Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.

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- CRP7. Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
- CRP8. Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

Stage 2: Assessment Evidence

Performance Task:

Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report; record science observations).

Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Other Forms of Assessment:

Opinion Writing Essay

Multiple drafts of the opinion writing essay (pre-writing, rough draft, revising, etc.)

Mini-lesson application and accountability: Student is able to effectively apply the mini-lesson concept to his/her writing

Student Productivity: Child is able to work independently for the 15-20 minute period during independent writing time

Prewriting/planning check-in- Child is able to produce a simple drawing with accompanying appropriate words/print

Grapho-phonemics: Child is able to use spelling strategies for unfamiliar words; child is able to stretch out a word and list/write the sound s/he hears and record beginning or dominant sounds

Stage 3: Learning Plan

Argument

Arguments are used for many purposes—to change the reader’s point of view, to bring about some action on the reader’s part, or to ask the reader to accept the writer’s explanation or evaluation of a concept, issue, or problem. An argument is a reasoned, logical way of demonstrating that the writer’s position, belief, or conclusion is valid. In English language arts, students make claims about the worth or meaning of a literary work or works. They defend their interpretations or judgments with evidence from the text(s) they are writing about. In history/social studies, students analyze evidence from multiple primary and secondary sources to advance a claim that is best supported by the evidence, and they argue for a historically or empirically situated interpretation. In science, students make claims in the form of statements or conclusions that answer questions or address problems. Using data in a scientifically acceptable form, students marshal evidence and draw on their understanding of scientific concepts to argue in support of their claims.

Although young children are not able to produce fully developed logical arguments, they develop a variety of methods to extend and elaborate their work by providing examples, offering reasons for their assertions, and explaining cause and effect. These kinds of expository structures are steps on the road to argument. In grades K–5, the term “opinion” is used to refer to this developing form of argument.

(See Appendices to support their opinions)

The Components of a Minilesson

A writing minilesson is a short lesson focused on a specific principle or procedure (Calkins 1986, 1994). A minilesson's components are: Connection, Teaching, Active Engagement, and Link. Each minilesson follows the same architecture:

Connection: Children learn why today's instruction is important and how it relates to the prior work. They hear the teaching point that crystallizes the lesson.

Teaching: The teacher shows children how writers go about doing whatever is being taught. Usually this involves a demonstration, which the teacher sets up and explains.

Active Engagement: Children are given a chance to practice (for a minute) what has just been taught. The teacher scaffolds their work so they can be successful.

Link: The teacher crystallizes what has been taught, adding it to children's growing repertoire. Children are reminded that today's lesson pertains not only to today, but to every day. The teacher often summarizes the conditions under which a child is able to reach for this new knowledge.

The Architecture of a Conference

Each conference is unique; however, they nevertheless do have a predictable structure.

Research: Observe and interview to understand what the child is trying to do as a writer. Probe to glean more about the child's intentions. Name what the child has already accomplished as a writer and remind the child to do this in future writing.

Decide: Weigh whether you want to accept or alter the child's current plans and processes. Decide what you will teach and how you will teach it. Although there may be several teaching decisions, think about the one teaching point that is apt to make the biggest difference in the child's writing. Plan the way in which you will provide the student with guided practice.

Teach: Instruct the child on critical writing strategies, i.e., adding details, creating a more effective hook, removing information that does not support the topic, or selecting a topic that the child may not know.

Link: Name what the child has accomplished as a writer and remind the child to do this often in the future.

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Nonfiction Writing: Procedures and Reports: Lucy Calkins and Laurie Pessah

Part One: Writing How to Books

- Session I. Introducing How-To Books (p. 1)
- Session II. Checking for Clarity (p. 11)
- Session III. Revising Words and Pictures (p. 21)
- Session IV. Incorporating Features of How-To Writing (p. 29)
- Session V. Revising: Learning from a Variety of How-To Writing (p. 41)
- Session VI. Editing: Using Periods, Parentheses, and Colons (p. 47)

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Part Two: Writing All About Books

- Session VII. Introducing All-About Books (p. 57)
- Session VIII. Structuring All-About Books: The Table of Contents (p. 63)
- Session IX. Planning Each Chapter: Choosing Papers and Structures (p. 71)
- Session X. Making Labeled Diagrams (p. 81)
- Session XI. Making Texts That Teach (p. 87)
- Session XII. Revising: Learning from Each Other’s Writing (p. 99)
- Session XIII. Revising: Fitting Information into Writing (p. 107)
- Session XIV. Editing: Becoming Resourceful Word Solvers (p. 113)
- Session XV. Celebrating Nonfiction Writing: Ceremonial Book Placement (p. 121)

Checklist of skills cited in Common Core for Writing Opinion for Grade 2. This checklist will be used to inform instructional decisions for minilessons, assessing students’ writing, and as an aide when developing a rubric.

W 2.1. Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g. *because, and, also*) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.

Opinion Writing Checklist

A. Write an opinion piece in which students introduce a topic or book they are writing about	
B. State an opinion	
C. Supply reasons that support the opinion	
D. Use linking words (e.g. <i>because, and, also</i>) to connect opinion and reasons	
E. Provide a concluding statement or section.	
With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.	
With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.	
Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts, including using adjectives and adverbs to describe (e.g., <i>When other kids are happy that makes me happy</i>).	

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Language Usage Checklist

Use collective nouns (e.g., <i>group</i>).	
Form and use frequently occurring irregular plural nouns (e.g., <i>feet, children, teeth, mice, fish</i>).	
Use reflexive pronouns (e.g., <i>myself, ourselves</i>).	
Form and use the past tense of frequently occurring irregular verbs (e.g., <i>sat, hid, told</i>).	
Use adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified.	
Produce, expand, and rearrange complete simple and compound sentences (e.g., <i>The boy watched the movie; The little boy watched the movie; The action movie was watched by the little boy</i>).	
Capitalize holidays, product names, and geographic names.	
Use commas in greetings and closings of letters.	
Use an apostrophe to form contractions and frequently occurring possessives.	

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<p>Generalize learned spelling patterns when writing words (e.g., <i>cage</i> → <i>badge</i>; <i>boy</i> → <i>boil</i>).</p>		
<p>Consult reference materials, including beginning dictionaries, as needed to check and correct spellings.</p>		

Modifications

Special Education:

- Use Research, Decide, Teach, Link methodology during conferring with students
- Teacher models own writing
- Show additional number of samples/examples
- Provide additional opportunities to practice
- Use individual teacher/student conferences to address student's needs
- Use small group table conferences to address needs
- Develop target vocabulary
- Scaffold comprehension when reading is used to promote reader response
- Use graphic organizers to develop key concepts/ideas
- Teach key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information.

English Language Learners (ELLs):

- Model Thinking Aloud
- Encourage Partner Talk
- Repeat and Clarify
- Provide a Sequence
- Encourage self-selection of topics
- Target vocabulary
- Scaffold comprehension when reading is used to promote reader response
- Scaffold content-literacy reading
- Allow products to demonstrate student's learning
- Provide on-going feedback

Students at Risk of School Failure:

- Utilize TIME Mentor Program
- Build a relationship
- Allow flexible due dates
- Employ strategies from Classroom Instruction that Works
- Create the Opportunity to Learn strategies
- Build lessons around student interests

Gifted Students:

- Utilize flexible groups-group gifted students with other gifted students or higher-level learners
- Encourage students to explore/research concepts in depth via independent studies or investigations (individual/group)
- Differentiate product assignments. Employ differentiated curriculum to keep interest/motivation high
- Encourage creative expression and thinking by allowing students to choose how to approach a problem or assignment (problem based learning)
- Invite students to explore different points of view on a topic of study and compare the two

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- Provide multiple opportunities for students to “Own Their Learning”
- Ask students higher-level questions that require students to look into causes, experiences, and facts to draw a conclusion to other areas of learning. (Webb’s Depth of Knowledge- Level 4)
- Create a room environment that encourages creativity and discovery through the use of interesting literature and reference materials. Supply reading materials on a wide variety of subjects and levels
- Provide a learning-rich environment that includes a variety of resources, media, tasks, and methods of teaching
- Focus on Habits of Mind pedagogy

Core Instructional Materials:

- *Calkins Units of Study in Writing* Program 2014 edition
- Newsela.com for leveled texts
- Technology/Equipment: ACTIV Board, LCD projector, sound system , CDs, DVDs, videos, internet, iPod