Evaluating and Improving Student Writing
Learning Expectations and Best Practices for Narrative Writing
Module Objectives

• Identify student expectations as it relates to narrative writing
• Develop understanding around the practice of narrative writing
• Explore best practices in teaching and assessing narrative writing
Narrative Writing

Learning Expectations
# Georgia Standards of Excellence
## Narrative Writing Learning Expectations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades 3-5</th>
<th>Grades 6-8</th>
<th>Ninth Grade and American Literature and Composition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><em>ELAGSEW3</em>: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, <strong>descriptive</strong> details, and <strong>clear</strong> event sequences.</td>
<td><em>ELAGSEW3</em>: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, <strong>relevant</strong> descriptive details, and <strong>well-structured</strong> event sequences.</td>
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Narrative: A narrative is a real or imaginary story. It may be about a single moment in time, or a series of related events and experiences. Narratives may focus on how one character thinks and feels about a situation, or how several different characters think and feel about it.
**Georgia Standards of Excellence**

**Narrative Writing Key Terms**

**Event:** An event is a single thing that happens.

**Sequence:** Sequence is the order of events in a narrative.

**Experience:** An experience is an event or series of events that happen to or are seen by a character.
An experience may be described as a single event or a series of events.

A character may be part of an experience, or a character may observe an experience without being part of it.
Narrative techniques: The tools writers use to create interesting experiences, events, and characters in a story.

Examples of narrative techniques include use of dialogue, description, pacing, reflection, and multiple plot lines.
Narrative Writing

Best Practices
Best Practices in Narrative Writing

Standard Alignment

- Align tasks to a content standard

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Best Practices in Narrative Writing

Rubrics

• Use rubrics designed to custom-fit a specific task or designed in a way that they can be used across parallel tasks.
  • A **task-specific rubric** is designed to evaluate one specific prompt or task, e.g., a math rubric that is tailored to a specific problem situation or an art rubric that is tailored to a specific video project.
  • A **general rubric** is designed to be used over and over again, across similar tasks that call for the target learning, e.g., a language arts rubric for evaluating argumentative writing, or a science rubric for evaluating research reports.

*information pulled from FIP Module: Creating and Using Rubrics*
Provide **general rubrics** that call for the target learning.

Learning targets aligned to the standards and evident within the Milestones rubric include:

- Using narrative techniques
- Making a connection to source material when appropriate
- Using grade appropriate conventions
Best Practices in Narrative Writing

Writer’s Checklist

• Utilize writer’s checklist before, during, and after writing

*Argumentative writing replaces opinion writing beginning in grade 6.
Best Practices in Narrative Writing

The Writing Prompt

• Provide prompts that are relevant, engaging in context, and short and concise
  • Ensure prompts refer/connect to stimulus text(s) when appropriate

Write a story about playing basketball in James Naismith’s gym class in 1891. Use dialogue and description to develop the characters and setting.

Use details from the article to develop your story.

*Example pulled from Georgia Milestones Grade 7 EOG Assessment Guide, p. 21
Best Practices in Narrative Writing
Foster Student Agency

- Cultivate creativity in writing; avoid prescriptive approaches
- Provide choice
- Build in opportunities for students to peer edit using a writer’s checklist
- Encourage students to use a rubric to evaluate their own writing
Best Practices in Narrative Writing
Formative and Summative Assessment

Formative Assessment
• Goal is to support the WRITER
• Drafts of student writing are used as a tool to support revision
• Students confer with the teacher and with other students to edit and revise writing

Summative Assessment
• Goal is to grade the WRITING
• Revision process is limited in scope due to time constraints
• Students compose a final draft to be scored
Best Practices in Narrative Writing
Formative and Summative Assessment

Formative Assessment
• Scores generally are NOT included in the grade book
• Formative assessments are predominantly implemented in the classroom and among the grade level

Summative Assessment
• Scores generally ARE included in the gradebook
• Summative assessments are implemented at the classroom, grade, school, district, and state levels
Conclusion

• The Georgia Standards of Excellence specify that upon graduation, students are expected to write narratives using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

• When teaching and assessing narrative writing:
  • tasks should be aligned to content standard W3;
  • rubrics and/or checklists should be provided to students; and
  • prompts should be relevant and engaging.

• Formative and summative assessment of narrative writing have fundamental differences but are both purposeful.
Additional Support

Resources & Professional Learning
Georgia Milestones Assessment System

Resources

• Assessment Guides

• Study Guides
  ➢ Comprehensive Writing Unit inclusive of Narrative Writing

• Item & Scoring Samplers
  ➢ Stand-alone Narrative Item & Scoring Sampler

• Writing Rubrics

• Writer’s Checklists
  ➢ Narrative Genre
English Language Arts Curriculum & Instruction Resource

Narrative Writing Professional Learning

Participants will explore resources for both interpreting and teaching the narrative writing standard.

*Presenters: English Language Arts Team, Georgia Department of Education - Curriculum and Instruction*

The learning can be accessed at [GeorgiaStandards.org](https://GeorgiaStandards.org).