Big Idea/ Topic

Teaching Others What We Know: Informational Writing

This 10-lesson mini unit introduces students to the concept of becoming writers of informational texts. While this unit focuses primarily on writing instruction, the assumption is that students are also engaging in reading workshop lessons centered around nonfiction texts. This overlap in reading and writing instruction allows students to begin producing the same types of texts they are reading independently and invites natural observations of text characteristics used by readers and writers of informational texts. In this unit students will observe the teacher model writing informational booklets while producing multiple booklets themselves over the course of the ten days.

Lesson Nine: Getting Ready to Celebrate - Revision

In this lesson students will begin to prepare for the culminating celebration during which they will read their books to other students in order to “teach” them about their topics. Students will choose one of the booklets they have worked on over the course of this unit to publish. They will revise the content by rereading the booklet and clarifying ideas and adding or removing words or sentences. Students should not be made to copy over their entire book as part of the publication process, though some students may choose to do so. This revision lesson is about making the ideas in the booklets clearer and stronger; it is not about spelling, punctuation or capitalization, which will be addressed in the editing lesson, lesson ten.

NOTE: This learning plan uses specific texts (e.g., written, performed, illustrated) as concrete examples of standards-based learning activities. These texts are not endorsements. The selection of classroom texts is completely a local decision and subject to local approval processes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Targets</th>
<th>Lesson “Small Make(s)”</th>
<th>Unit “Big Make”</th>
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<td>I can revise my writing to make sure it makes sense to others.</td>
<td>Students will choose one book to publish and will revise the content of the book by clarifying ideas and adding or removing words or sentences.</td>
<td>Students will individually publish an informational booklet that teaches others by choosing one of the booklets they created during the unit, revising and editing to the best extent possible, then sharing with an authentic audience, such as a Buddy Kindergarten class or another first-grade class.</td>
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*adapted from Cris Tovani’s Why Do I Have to Read This? Literacy Strategies to Engage our Most Reluctant Readers (2021)
**Standard Alignment**

ELAGSE1W2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

ELAGSE1W5: With guidance and support from adults, focus on a topic, respond to questions and suggestions from peers, and add details to strengthen writing as needed.

ELAGSE1W6: With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of tools to produce and publish writing, including digital tools and collaboration with peers.

**Instructional Design**

For more information regarding daily routine practices and/or additional information on the unit framework (including materials), please see the Unit Plan Overview.

Various evidence-based practices (EBPs) are identified throughout the lesson below; however, we believe good teaching can be eclectic, “...thoughtfully, intentionally taking some of the best of different teaching methodologies, while always holding onto some research-based, core beliefs, we can help our students flourish in ways that teaching only one way will not” (Roberts, 2018, p. 6). Always feel free to adapt the lesson to meet your professional needs with your specific student population. Ideas for student supports and enrichments can be found in the “Student Learning Supports” section.

This mini unit is written for synchronous distance learning or face-to-face learning that utilizes various technology resources. Everything listed as synchronous can be utilized with little to no change in a face-to-face (f2f) environment. However, guidance is provided for modifications, including ideas for supporting students who are learning asynchronously and those with little or no access to technology (unplugged/offline).

**Materials**

**Teacher**—virtual whiteboard (shared document), document camera, student sample book All About Eagles [link to student sample booklet], one of the teacher’s previously written booklets to be published

**Students**—blank paper, book student has chosen to publish, unplugged handout version [link to lesson 9 handout unplugged]
**Engage**

**Opening:**

**Synchronous**

- Explain to students that our publishing celebration is coming soon! [EBP: Create an engaged community of writers [Minimal evidence] (Graham et al., 2016)]. We will celebrate our informational writing by partnering up with a Kindergarten class. Each first grader will get to read their book to a Kindergartener so their book can teach the younger student about the topic.

- Once we’ve chosen the book we will publish, we need to make sure it is ready for the younger students so we will **Revise** our books. That means it needs to be easy to understand, with lots of teaching facts and details. We need to reread our books with our Kindergarten audience in mind.

- Model rereading your booklet to the students, pausing when you come across a place where either a) a Kindergartener might be confused (i.e., a vocabulary word might need to be explained) or b) you could add another fact or detail that might be interesting to a Kindergartener. This includes adding details to the pictures as well. [EBP: Teach students to use the writing process for a variety of purposes. [Strong evidence] (Graham et al., 2016)].

**Asynchronous**

Post on your learning management platform a brief video of yourself, a) explaining the upcoming publishing celebration, b) explaining the purpose of revising our books and what that means, and c) modeling revising your own book for a Kindergarten audience.

**Unplugged/Offline**

Have students work through part 1 of **Lesson 9 Handout – unplugged**.

**Explore**

**Synchronous**

- Ask students to think about their Kindergarten audience as you reread **All About Eagles** to the class. Are there any words or ideas that might be hard for a Kindergartener to understand?

- Ask for student input after a couple of pages. For instance, on page 2 – would a Kindergartener know what a “beak” is? Perhaps we should add a sentence at the end of the page that says, “An eagle’s
mouth is called a beak." [Don’t worry that this sentence comes after the sentence about feathers – first graders are expected to include facts in their writing, but these facts are not required to be organized] • Allow students to make another suggestion about where the writer might add or remove words to make information clearer, or where you might clarify illustrations.

Asynchronous

Share an image of the student sample book All About Eagles. Have students record a brief Flipgrid or Seesaw video telling of one revision they suggest the writer should make.

Unplugged/Offline

Have students work through part 2 of Lesson 9 Handout – unplugged.

Apply

Synchronous

Students will work independently on first choosing the booklet they want to publish and then rereading it to see where they might add or remove information in the words and/or illustrations. You might make the work session of today’s workshop slightly shorter in order to pair up students to read their booklets to each other. As they listen, they should keep their Kindergarten audience in mind and make suggestions about possible revisions the writer might make. [EBP: Teach students to use the writing process for a variety of purposes. [Strong evidence] (Graham et al., 2016)].

Asynchronous/Unplugged/Offline

Students will work independently on first choosing the booklet they want to publish and then rereading it to see where they might add or remove information in the words and/or illustrations.

Reflect

Synchronous

After students have had a chance to read their book to their partner and make suggested changes, meet as a whole class and have several students talk about the revisions they made. Discuss how these revisions make it easier for their audience to understand the book. [EBP: Create an engaged community of writers [Minimal evidence] (Graham et al., 2016)].
Asynchronous/Unplugged/Offline

Students will continue working on their booklets. These can be shared with teachers via a scheduled online conference, regular phone conference during which the student reads aloud their writing, or photos can be emailed to the teacher of the student’s work.

Evidence of Student Success

Students will be considered successful with this lesson if they can make revisions to their booklets based on their own thinking or the input of the teacher or their peers.

Formative Assessment

“More of What’s Meaningful”: Formative Assessments (Serravallo, 2013)

Formative assessment can occur in two ways:

- Conferring [Guidance: Tips for Conferring to Maximize Student Engage]
  
  “Supercharge your Conferring: Focus on Goals, Strategies, and Feedback” (Serravallo, 2018)

- Sharing [“How to Create an Inclusive Virtual Classroom” (Kern, 2020)]
Student Learning Supports

At all levels, the English Language Arts standards encourage students to become critical thinkers and communicators. The following strategies are designed to support students who are either struggling to meet this lesson's learning target and/or are exceeding and would benefit from enrichment.

**Supports/Scaffolding**

- **Conceptual Processing**: Allow additional processing time. Review this content prior to the lesson occurring so that the student will have additional time to formulate responses. Summarize each lesson segment and keep summary accessible for students. Implement scaffolds identified below for various circumstances.

- **Language**: Prior to beginning of the lesson, explicitly teach vocabulary required to engage with the content. [*EBP: Teach students academic language skills, including the use of inferential and narrative language, and vocabulary knowledge [Minimal evidence] (Foorman et al., 2016)](https://example.com).

- **Visual-spatial Processing**: Provide opportunities for students to engage with visual representations and/or manipulatives (virtual or concrete) as they explore informational writing and communicate ideas.

- **Organization**: Maintain logical progression of big ideas/lesson segments in the course’s shared virtual space so that students can revisit lesson segments as necessary. Help students bookmark frequently utilized sites (such as Flipgrid) or how to group tabs in Chrome to assist with organization.

- **Memory**: Maintain logical progression of big ideas/lesson segments in the course’s shared virtual space so that students can revisit lesson segments, as necessary.

**Scaffolds**

Some students may have difficulty stepping outside of their writing enough to be able to consider it from another person’s point of view. This is typical of young children and shouldn’t be overly concerning. In these cases, it would be helpful if the teacher mentions the confusing or unclear part and allows the writer to think about how to make the revisions, coaching as necessary. For instance, in the example from All About Eagles mentioned in the lesson above, the teacher may need to suggest, “What if a Kindergartener doesn’t know what a beak is? How could you make that easier for them to understand?”

**Supports/scaffolds for English learners:**

- Educators are encouraged to refer to resources such as [WIDA’s Essential Actions Handbook](https://example.com) or the downloadable [GO TO Strategies from CAL](https://example.com) to find a variety of scaffolds appropriate for ELs across ELP levels.
Sample language objectives/targets for this lesson (Please note the following language objectives are examples and should not be used across all ELP levels. Teachers should take students’ ELP levels into account when creating language objectives for their lessons):

- Read aloud phrases and/or short sentences with accuracy and fluency through the support of a teacher.
- Orally engage in conversations with peers using words and phrases acquired through social and instructional language with support from strategic peer grouping and sentence stems.

Acceleration/Extension

Standard:

ELAGSE1W5: With guidance and support from adults, focus on a topic, respond to questions and suggestions from peers, and add details to strengthen writing as needed.

Acceleration/Extension Activity:

As with Lesson 4, this lesson provides accelerated students an opportunity to conduct research about their topic if they choose to do so. In preparing their book for publication, they may want to learn more about the topic in order to add additional facts. Encourage this for students who are able to, but keep in mind that you may need to have a conversation about how to conduct research without plagiarizing.

Engaging Families

Aligning with your district’s family engagement plan to facilitate the most meaningful way to work with your families.

- Families may want to establish routine ways for students to celebrate and publish their writing. For instance, they may want to set aside a particular day of the week for their children to “present” their writing to the immediate family or even via technology or social media to family at a distance.
- Explore the ways that published authors revise their writing. Check out author’s websites, where they often show earlier versions of their published works, or check out books that include revisions, such as Hooray for Diffendoofer Day, which includes Dr. Seuss’s earliest versions of the book.
References


