Launching Writing with the ‘Write’ Tools

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Learning Intentions & Success Criteria

• Participants will learn an instructional framework that can be used for scaffolding students in responding to texts in writing.

• I can design a instructional framework for writing from sources to use with students.

• I can describe instructional techniques that can be used to support students write from sources.
Guiding Principles

• Writing instruction can strengthen students’ reading performance
  • Having students write about the texts they read
    • Responses to text
    • Summaries of text
    • Writing notes about text
  • Teach students the writing skills and processes that go into creating texts
    • Spelling
    • Sentence Construction
    • Writing Process
  • Frequency of students writing
Our Focus

• Having students write about the texts they read
  • Responses to text
  • Summaries of text
  • Writing notes about text
Writing from Sources

An Instructional Protocol
Writing from Sources

• Set the purpose for writing/reading
• Read the text (gist and close reading with text-dependent questions)
• Read/annotate the text to collect evidence to support writing
• Using a graphic organizer, record the evidence into helpful categories or groups
• Construct a topic/focus statement or paragraph
• Analyze a model text
• Revise edit topic/focus statement or paragraph
• Organize the evidence—oral discussion—and construct evidence paragraphs
• Write concluding statement or paragraph
• Peer revision/editing; add visuals/graphics/images
• Share written work
Set the Purpose for Reading
Set the Purpose for Reading

• Sets the stage for the reading
• Directs students’ energies to focus on what the teacher has identified as critical for their attention
• Provides motivation
• Teacher clarity
How do weather patterns affect humans?
Initial Read

• What does the text say?
  • General Understandings
    • Major points of the text
    • Sequence of events
    • Story arc
    • Important plot points
    • Main claim and evidence provided
  • Key Details
    • Relationship between main ideas and supporting details
    • Who, what, when, where, why, how much, how many questions
      • About linking the major idea of the piece to the details the author provided
Conduct an initial reading for the gist of the text, including text-dependent questions.
Read the text

• Three Categories (from the UCS)
  • Key Ideas and Details (Standards 1-3)
  • Craft and Structure (Standards 4-6)
  • Integration of Knowledge and Ideas (Standards 7-9)
• “A good question begs the reader to go back to the text.”

Douglas Fisher
Terrifying Tornadoes

Thunderstorms can be scary, but sometimes they bring something even worse than thunder and lightning: tornadoes. Imagine looking up to the sky and seeing a swirling, funnel-shaped cloud that touches the ground coming toward you. Tornadoes are one of nature’s most violent storms.

In the United States, an average of 800 tornadoes is reported every year. Many tornadoes occur in an area known as “Tornado Alley.” This area includes the central Plains from Texas to Nebraska. Tornado season begins in March and continues through summer. However, a tornado can occur in any place at any time.

Tornadoes usually occur near the edge of a thunderstorm. The creation of a tornado requires three things: wind, temperature, and moisture. A storm sucks in warm, humid air, which rises. The moisture condenses into rain. The cool air moves down. When the cool air and the warm air are joined, they create a spinning tube. If one end of the tube touches the ground, a tornado forms.

When a tornado touches down on the ground, it can damage an area one mile wide and 50 miles long. The most danger comes from flying objects and powerful winds. Tornadoes are strong enough to tear apart houses and fling cars through the air. They can also turn small objects into flying weapons. Tornadoes cause an average of 70 deaths in the United States each year. They also cause an average of 1,500 injuries.

To study tornadoes, forecasters gather weather data. They look at...
data from satellites, radar, and weather stations. They use this information to predict where and when a tornado might hit. This helps them issue tornado warnings. The average warning time is twelve minutes. Tornado sirens are an outdoor warning system. They tell people who are outside that something dangerous is getting closer.

One way to stay safe is to know the signs of danger. Look for changes in the weather. Before a tornado strikes, the sky will look dark and greenish. Large hail might fall. You may see a large, dark, low-lying cloud approaching. You may also hear a loud roar. It is similar to the sound of a freight train. These are all signs that you need to move indoors as soon as possible.

Tornado Alley

No place is completely safe during a tornado. However, some places are safer than others. The best place to be is in a basement. Otherwise, go to the center of an interior room. Choose one that is on the lowest level of the house. This could be a closet or a hallway. Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls.

Throughout the world, the country that is most likely to experience tornadoes is the United States. New technology helps scientists provide more accurate tornado warnings. However, sometimes tornadoes develop so quickly that no advance warning is possible. The best way to stay safe is to know the signs of a tornado and know where to go to seek shelter.
Initial Read Questions for Tornadoes

• Describe a tornado.
• Where do most tornadoes happen in the U.S.?
• How can you tell when a tornado is coming?
• What are some of the dangers of tornadoes?
• What are some ways to stay safe during a tornado?
• How do forecasters predict tornadoes?
Work Time

Set the purpose for reading.

Conduct an initial reading for the gist of the text, including text-dependent questions.
Set purpose for writing

Three Text Types

• Argument/Opinion
• Informative/Explanatory
• Narrative
Tell this story:

Will you tell this story from the perspective of the scuba diver or the whale shark or a third person perspective? Does the scuba diver get away? Does he live inside the whale shark for awhile before finally escaping?
Which is a better place to spend the day: the beach or an amusement park? Give plenty of reasons to explain your choice.
How do tornadoes affect humans? Using the Terrifying Tornadoes text, describe the power of tornadoes, the dangers, and how to stay safe. Be sure to introduce the topic, use facts and definitions, and a concluding statement.
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Read/Annotate for Text Evidence

• Revisit the text, or specific parts of the text, with the writing prompt in mind
• Mark the text for evidence to support the writing prompt
• Younger grades—find and record evidence as a group
Annotations

- **Underline** the major points.
- **Circle** keywords or phrases that are confusing or unknown to you.
- **Use a question mark (?)** for questions that you have during the reading. Be sure to write your question.
Wings in Water

A huge, flat creature leaps out of the sea. It skims over the waves and flips backward with a splash. Could this be a fish? Yes. It is a manta ray.

These diamond-shaped giants live in warm oceans. They can be 22 feet wide and weigh as much as a small car—up to 3,000 pounds.

Speed Swimmer

Their skeletons are made of soft bone called cartilage. This flexible cartilage skeleton helps to make the manta a graceful, powerful swimmer.

Slowly flapping their two large fins like wings, mantas fly under the water. They do fly (sort of)

Terrifying Tornadoes

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Set the purpose for the writing task and subsequent reading(s).

Read/annotate the text to collect evidence to support writing, including close reading and text-dependent questions.
Using a graphic organizer, record the evidence into helpful categories or groups.
Why Graphic Organizers?

• Gather important information
• Organize information
• More easily process information
• See relationships between ideas
• More easily understand, remember, and apply information
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dangers</th>
<th>Safety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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Construct a topic/focus statement or paragraph.
Topic/Focus Statement

• “What am I going to prove?”
• “What am I going to explain?”
• “What information will I share?”

• Upper Grades
  • Introduce key concepts to support the topic sentence.

• How do tornadoes affect humans? Using the Terrifying Tornadoes text, describe the power of tornadoes, the dangers, and how to stay safe. Be sure to introduce the topic, use facts and definitions, and a concluding statement.
A tornado is a violent type of weather pattern that affects humans.
Construct a topic/focus statement or paragraph.
Analyze a mentor/model text

• What is a mentor text?
  • A guide to support students to take on greater independence
  • A book, newspaper article, song, poem, or even a travel brochure
Analyze a mentor/model text

• Writer uses the mentor text to move forward through close imitation
  • Requires students to closely read to discover how the author created an effective piece
  • Ultimately, imitating the author’s craft and organizational structure
Resources for Mentor Texts

• Create your own
• Student samples from previous years
• Epic Books
• Tumblebooks
• Utah’s Online Library
• NewsELA
• Readworks
• Books
Analyze a mentor/model text

It’s a Tornado!

What is that in the sky?

It’s a tornado!

How does a tornado happen?

What can you do?
Revise topic/focus statement or paragraph

• Draw on both the mentor/model text and class instruction to improve introduction
• How do weather patterns, like violent tornadoes, affect humans?
Organize the evidence—oral discussion—and construct evidence paragraphs
Oral Discussion

Organize the evidence (oral discussion) and construct evidence paragraphs.
Tornado Example

• How do tornadoes affect humans?
  • Tornadoes can cause...
  • A violent tornado leaves behind...
  • One of the ways tornadoes affect humans is by...

• How are tornadoes dangerous?
  • Tornadoes are dangerous because...
  • The force of tornadoes can cause...

• How can we stay safe in a tornado?
  • To stay safe, you can...
  • To avoid injury, you can...
Tornadoes are severe storms that can cause major damage due to their high winds. In fact, tornadoes can fling cars in the air and destroy homes which can be dangerous. To stay safe in a tornado, it is best to head to the basement and stay away from windows.
Concluding Statement/Paragraph

Write a concluding statement or paragraph.
Concluding Statement/Paragraph

• Go back to your topic.
• Restate the topic and the position.
• Do not introduce new information.
• Use synonyms and leave your reader with something to remember.
Concluding Statement/Paragraph

• Tornadoes are a dangerous type of weather pattern that affect humans, but there are ways to stay safe, too.
Organize the evidence (oral discussion) and construct evidence paragraphs.

Write a concluding statement or paragraph.
# Peer Feedback

## Peer Revision Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2nd Grade -- Informative</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Peer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTRODUCTION</strong></td>
<td>The topic is introduced.</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No □ Yes □ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EVIDENCE</strong></td>
<td>Facts and definitions are present.</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No □ Yes □ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fact 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fact 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fact 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONCLUSION</strong></td>
<td>There is a conclusion present.</td>
<td>□ Yes □ No □ Yes □ No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Peer Revision/Editing

• First draft complete...
• Using a grade specific standards-based checklist to go back over their own writing and make final revisions and/or corrections.
Add visuals, graphics, and images

- Create a visual (drawing, photograph, etc.) to enhance the meaning of the piece.
How do weather patterns, like violent tornadoes, affect humans? Tornadoes are severe storms that can cause major damage due to their high winds. In fact, tornadoes can fling cars in the air and destroy homes which can be dangerous. To stay safe in a tornado, it is best to head to the basement and stay away from windows. Tornadoes are a dangerous type of weather pattern that affect humans, but there are ways to stay safe, too.
3rd Grade Opinion Sample

The Best Pet

Are you looking for a new pet? I'd recommend a cat. For one thing, they aren't that expensive. You could find one on your porch and adopt it. Cats usually bathe themselves. Cats will sleep with you and can help you calm down when you're upset or mad. Cats also don't need training and you can leave cats home for the day. Cats don't need much exercise. So if you are looking for a pet, maybe you can find some cats, and you might find yourself a great pet!
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