

Persuasive Writing Unit

Main Focus: Persuasive / Rhetorical Language	2 Weeks
Unit Overview	<p>From print advertisements to political speeches, persuasive language is all around us. In this unit, we will explore how language, specifically techniques of rhetoric, are used to persuade. Students will learn to employ persuasive language in written and verbal pieces. The main goal for this unit is for students to learn the main persuasive language techniques (including ethos, pathos, and logos) and how to use them in their own work. This will help them craft more effective arguments in their speech and writing. Moreover, they will analyze how advertisements and political speeches employ rhetorical techniques to help them become more critical consumers and citizens.</p>
Essential Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is rhetoric? How can I identify it? 2. How can language be used to persuade and convince? 3. How can persuasive language be used politically to manipulate?
Lesson Objectives	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Identify, name, and explain the use of ethos, pathos, and logos in a text; be able to use these tools in your own writing. → Determine the meaning of words and phrases used in a text, including figurative language and jargon, and how they are used to be persuasive. → Determine an author’s underlying purpose in a text and analyze how they use rhetoric (and rhetorical tools) to advance that point of view or purpose. → Write persuasive arguments to support original claims, using reasoning and evidence to substantiate them.

Narrative Writing Unit

Main Focus: Creative/Narrative writing	2 Weeks
Unit Overview	<p>In this unit, we will explore how language is used to craft compelling, engaging narrative stories. Students will learn to employ such language in their own written pieces. The main goal for this unit is for students to recognize, understand, and be able to use key elements that make narrative writing creative and engaging: fluent sentences, the importance of narrative perspective, developing characterization, embedding authentic dialogue, and crafting descriptive imagery. Moreover, students will analyze mentor texts - such as short stories - regarding how writers craft compelling pieces. At the very start of the unit, students will write short narrative pieces to use throughout shaping, refining, and applying their new skills to these pieces as the unit progresses. Students will then transfer these skills to a final piece to demonstrate their learning.</p>
Essential Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is narrative writing? 2. What makes a non-fiction story compelling? 3. How can a writer create vivid images with their words?
Lesson Objectives	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Write complex, varied sentence types to make their writing more engaging and fluent. ● Use figurative techniques to make their narrative writing descriptive, vivid, and compelling. ● Strategically use and develop narrative elements (e.g., narrative perspective, characterization, dialogue) to strengthen their writing. ● Plan, revise, and edit their own writing for accuracy, content, and structure.

Literary Analysis Writing

Main Focus: Literary Analysis Writing	2 Weeks
Unit Overview	Think of this as literary analysis boot camp: over the course of the unit, students will be introduced to the concept of analyzing literature, how to respond to a text, and how to fluently write about their response. Through the analysis of poetry and short stories, students will learn to structure paragraphs of literary analysis using the PEEL method: writing clear, debatable claims, backing them up with evidence, providing deeper analysis and explanation, and then fluently linking back to the overall topic. This unit would work well as a mini-unit at the start of the school year so that the key skills learned can be regularly referenced back to, built on, and developed throughout the school year as students examine and explore other literary texts.
Essential Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How does responding to literature impact your understanding of a text?2. How do literary elements help convey meaning?3. How do we fluently express our thoughts and ideas about a text?
Lesson Objectives	Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Make unique, original claims about a text, evidencing critical thought and engagement.★ Identify and cite strong textual evidence to support their inferences and opinions.★ Analyze and explain how an author crafts a text using narrative, dramatic, or poetic techniques.★ Write strong literary analysis essays that are well-structured and detailed.★ Fluently embed quotations in their writing, with correct punctuation and format.

Expository Writing Unit

Main Focus: Expository Writing	2 Weeks
Unit Overview	<p>Over the course of these expository writing mini-units, students will master the techniques required to complete well-structured informational writing. Using the P.E.E.L method for organizing paragraphs, students will learn to write fluent, multi-paragraph compositions. The units are broken down into the following types of essays: explanatory, cause/effect, process, and compare/contrast. Each unit guides students through idea generation, planning, drafting, and editing. Moreover, lesson plans guide the teacher through teaching key elements such as writing strong introductions, using transition words and phrases for fluency, and forming solid, mature thesis statements. Through the many activities included - such as analyzing mentor texts, engaging with rubrics, peer editing, and creating anchor charts - students are provided multiple opportunities and modes for engaging with the writing process.</p>
Essential Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the purpose of expository writing? 2. How do writers use language and structure to explain their ideas? 3. What overall process is required to write a well-structured piece of expository writing?
Lesson Objectives	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Plan and structure their writing in a way that is highly organized and logical. ★ Write clear, concise, and defined thesis statements. ★ Craft strong body paragraphs with highly focused topic sentences. ★ Use transition words and phrases to make writing fluent and articulate. ★ Craft introductions and conclusions that grab the attention of the reader and clearly open & close the essay.