

Subject Area: English Language Arts
Unit Title: Mastering Essay Writing
Grade Level: 9th Grade
Lesson Number: 1 of 7

Duration: 90 minutes
Date: March 10, 2024
Teacher: Ms. Johnson
Room: 205

Curriculum Standards Alignment

Content Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.2
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.3

Skills Standards:

- Critical Thinking
- Research
- Communication

Cross-Curricular Links:

- History
- Science
- Math

Essential Questions & Big Ideas

Essential Questions:

- What is the purpose of essay writing?
- How do I structure an essay?
- What are the key components of an essay?

Enduring Understandings:

- Essay writing is a process that requires planning, drafting, and revising.
- A well-structured essay includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Effective essay writing requires critical thinking, research, and communication skills.

Student Context Analysis

Class Profile:

- Total Students: 25
- ELL Students: 5
- IEP/504 Plans: 3
- Gifted: 2

Learning Styles Distribution:

- Visual: 40%
- Auditory: 30%
- Kinesthetic: 30%

Welcome to Essay Writing

Welcome to the world of essay writing! As a 14-year-old student, you are about to embark on a journey that will help you develop your critical thinking, research, and communication skills. In this lesson, you will learn the fundamentals of essay writing, from brainstorming to editing, and discover how to produce well-structured and coherent essays that effectively convey your thoughts and ideas.

Key Components of an Essay

Introduction:

- Background information
- Thesis statement
- Preview of main points

Body Paragraphs:

- Topic sentence
- Evidence and analysis
- Linking sentence

Conclusion:

- Summary of main points
- Restate thesis statement
- Final thought

Introduction

The introduction is the first paragraph of your essay, and it serves as a roadmap for the rest of the essay. It should provide background information, state the thesis statement, and preview the main points.

Body Paragraphs

The body paragraphs are the meat of your essay, and they should provide evidence and analysis to support your thesis statement. Each paragraph should have a topic sentence, evidence and analysis, and a linking sentence.

Conclusion

The conclusion is the final paragraph of your essay, and it should summarize the main points, restate the thesis statement, and provide a final thought.

Brainstorming Techniques

Mind Mapping:

- Start with a central idea
- Use keywords and phrases
- Create a visual map

Free Writing:

- Write without stopping
- Write whatever comes to mind
- Don't worry about grammar or spelling

Listing:

- Make a list of ideas
- Use bullet points or numbers
- Organize and categorize ideas

Outlining Techniques

Creating a Thesis Statement:

- Start with a broad topic
- Narrow down to a specific topic
- Create a clear and concise statement

Developing Topic Sentences:

- Use the thesis statement as a guide
- Create a topic sentence for each paragraph
- Make sure topic sentences are clear and concise

Organizing Evidence and Analysis:

- Use the topic sentences as a guide
- Find evidence to support the topic sentences
- Analyze the evidence and explain its significance

Introduction

Now that you have brainstormed and outlined your essay, it's time to start writing! Remember to use proper grammar and mechanics, and to provide evidence and analysis to support your thesis statement.

Body Paragraphs

Use the topic sentences as a guide, and provide evidence and analysis to support each topic sentence. Make sure to use transitional phrases and sentences to connect your ideas.

Conclusion

Summarize the main points, restate the thesis statement, and provide a final thought. Make sure to use proper grammar and mechanics, and to provide evidence and analysis to support your thesis statement.

Peer Review Guidelines

Be Respectful and Constructive:

- Focus on the essay, not the person
- Use "I" statements instead of "you" statements
- Be specific and provide examples

Focus on Content, Organization, and Grammar and Mechanics:

- Check for clarity and coherence
- Check for proper grammar and mechanics
- Check for proper citation and referencing

Provide Specific Examples and Suggestions for Improvement:

- Provide specific examples from the essay
- Make suggestions for improvement
- Be respectful and constructive

Feedback Methods

Verbal Feedback:

- One-on-one conferences
- Small group discussions
- Whole class discussions

Written Feedback:

- Comments on the essay
- Feedback forms
- Email or online feedback

Editing Tips

Review for Content, Organization, and Grammar and Mechanics:

- Check for clarity and coherence
- Check for proper grammar and mechanics
- Check for proper citation and referencing

Use Grammar and Spell Check Tools:

- Use grammar and spell check tools to check for errors
- Use online resources to check for grammar and mechanics

Revising Tips

Revise for Clarity and Coherence:

- Check for clarity and coherence
- Make sure the essay flows logically
- Use transitional phrases and sentences to connect ideas

Get Feedback from Peers and Teachers:

- Get feedback from peers and teachers
- Use feedback to revise and improve the essay
- Be open to feedback and suggestions

Conclusion

Congratulations! You have completed the essay writing lesson. Take a moment to reflect on what you have learned, and think about how you can apply these skills to your future academic pursuits.

Reflection Questions

What did you learn about essay writing in this lesson?

- What were the key takeaways from the lesson?
- How can you apply these skills to your future academic pursuits?

How can you apply these skills to your future academic pursuits?

- What are your strengths and weaknesses in essay writing?
- How can you improve your essay writing skills?
- What resources can you use to improve your essay writing skills?

Assessment Components

Written Essay:

- 40% of the final grade
- Assesses the student's ability to write a clear and coherent essay

Peer Review and Feedback:

- 20% of the final grade
- Assesses the student's ability to provide constructive feedback

Self-Assessment and Reflection:

- 20% of the final grade
- Assesses the student's ability to reflect on their learning

Class Participation and Engagement:

- 20% of the final grade
- Assesses the student's participation and engagement in class

Evaluation Criteria

Content:

- Clarity and coherence
- Organization and structure
- Use of evidence and analysis

Organization and Structure:

- Introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion
- Transitional phrases and sentences
- Clear and concise language

Style and Conventions:

- Grammar and mechanics
- Spelling and punctuation
- Use of proper citation and referencing

Research-Based Essay

Write a research-based essay on a topic of your choice. Make sure to use proper citation and referencing, and to provide evidence and analysis to support your thesis statement.

Creative Writing

Write a creative piece, such as a short story or poem, that demonstrates your understanding of the key components of an essay. Make sure to use proper grammar and mechanics, and to provide evidence and analysis to support your thesis statement.

Essay Contest

Enter an essay contest on a topic of your choice. Make sure to follow the contest guidelines, and to provide evidence and analysis to support your thesis statement.