

Grade 2 Unit Overviews

UNIT 1: INTRODUCING NARRATIVE WRITING

Why This Unit Is Important

This unit introduces narrative writing, using a variety of approaches to help students learn the purpose of narrative text and identify its common features. Students study an exemplar text, see a teacher model how to write a narrative, then collaboratively write several different narrative pieces, culminating in a writing activity in which they draw on Knowledge Strand Domain 4, *Greek Myths*, to retell a Greek myth.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 1	Domain 4, <i>Greek Myths</i>
Lesson 1	Lesson 5
Lesson 2	Lesson 6
Lesson 3	Pausing Point 1
Lesson 4	Pausing Point 2
Lesson 5	Lesson 7
Lesson 6	Lesson 8
Lesson 7	Lesson 9
Lesson 8	Lesson 10

Why This Unit Is Important

In this unit, students continue to develop their understanding of and ability to craft narratives. Using extensive scaffolding, it guides students through a review of domain knowledge, then draws on the work they have already done to understand the historical events described in Knowledge Strand Domain 5, *The War of 1812*. Students use their understanding of that period of American history to write a narrative journal entry from the perspective of Dolley Madison.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 2	Domain 5, <i>The War of 1812</i>
Lesson 1	Lesson 3
Lesson 2	Lesson 4
Lesson 3	Pausing Point 1
Lesson 4	Pausing Point 2
Lesson 5	Lesson 5
Lesson 6	Lesson 6
Lesson 7	Lesson 7
Lesson 8	Lesson 8

Why This Unit Is Important

This unit introduces opinion writing, using a variety of approaches to help students learn the purpose of opinion text and to identify its common features. Students study exemplar texts, see a teacher model how to write an opinion piece, then collaboratively and independently write several different opinion pieces, culminating in a writing activity in which they draw on Knowledge Strand Domain 7 to write a persuasive essay convincing their family to let them take a favorite object in a move west.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 3	Domain 7, <i>Westward Expansion</i>
Lesson 1	Lesson 3
Lesson 2	Lesson 4
Lesson 3	Lesson 5
Lesson 4	Pausing Point 1
Lesson 5	Pausing Point 2
Lesson 6	Lesson 6
Lesson 7	Lesson 7
Lesson 8	Lesson 8

Why This Unit Is Important

This unit helps students deepen their understanding of and ability to construct opinion texts. Using extensive scaffolding and modeling, it guides students through a review of domain knowledge, then draws on the what they have already learned about insects in the Knowledge Strand, Domain 8. Students use their understanding of insects and their characteristics to write an opinion piece describing which insect they would most like to have in their neighborhood.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 4	Domain 8, <i>Insects</i>
Lesson 1	Lesson 2
Lesson 2	Lesson 3
Lesson 3	Lesson 4
Lesson 4	Lesson 5
Lesson 5	Pausing Point 1
Lesson 6	Lesson 6
Lesson 7	Lesson 7
Lesson 8	Lesson 8

Why This Unit Is Important

This unit introduces informative writing, using a variety of approaches to help students learn the purpose of informational text and to identify its common features. Students study an exemplar text, see a teacher model how to write an informative piece, then collaboratively research and write an informational text in which they draw on Knowledge Strand, Domain 9 to compose an informative piece about Harriet Tubman.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 5	Domain 9, <i>The U.S. Civil War</i>
Lesson 1	Pausing Point 1
Lesson 2	Pausing Point 2
Lesson 3	Lesson 6
Lesson 4	Lesson 7
Lesson 5	Lesson 8
Lesson 6	Lesson 9
Lesson 7	Lesson 10
Lesson 8	Lesson 11

Why This Unit Is Important

In the final unit expressly devoted to informative writing, students continue to develop their understanding of and ability to craft informational texts. Using extensive scaffolding, this unit guides students through a review of domain knowledge, then draws on the work they have already done in Knowledge Strand, Domain 11. Students use their understanding of this domain to craft informative texts comparing and contrasting the lives of immigrants living in cities and the lives of immigrants living on farms in the United States during the 1800s–1900s.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 6	Domain 11, <i>Immigration</i>
Lesson 1	Lesson 6
Lesson 2	Pausing Point 1
Lesson 3	Pausing Point 2
Lesson 4	Pausing Point 3
Lesson 5	Lesson 7
Lesson 6	Lesson 8
Lesson 7	Lesson 9
Lesson 8	Lesson 10

Why This Unit Is Important

Grade 2 Writing Studio culminates in a unit that presents students with an authentic writing opportunity—to compose a text that will interest a reader in fighting for a cause. Students select one of three previously studied text types to compose their final piece of writing, then share it with peers and with the work’s intended audience.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 7	Domain 12, <i>Fighting for a Cause</i>
Lesson 1	Lesson 5
Lesson 2	Pausing Point 1
Lesson 3	Pausing Point 2
Lesson 4	Lesson 6
Lesson 5	Lesson 7
Lesson 6	Lesson 8
Lesson 7	Lesson 9
Lesson 8	Domain Review 1