

Unit 1: Planning an Effective Response

Unit Context: Unit 1 begins with an exploration of the strategies that work best for the students as they approach a piece of writing. Students journal daily as they build writing fluency and stamina and reflect on their connections to texts read in class and the world around them. The unit focuses on laying the foundation for effective writing by analyzing prompts and responding with the appropriate mode, context, and tone. Students use prewriting strategies to help develop drafts using an appropriate structure. Students determine appropriate audience, purpose, and message in their own writing. Students begin portfolios they will develop throughout the year.

Independent Reading: Student choice (short, high interest texts such as personal essays, vignettes, and informational/argumentative articles)

Practical Writing Skills TEKS: 1A, 1B, *2A, *2F, 2H, 4B, 4C, 5A, 5C, *5H, 6A, 6B
ELA TEKS: *10.9Bi

Unit 2: Writing Effective Evidence and Commentary

Unit Context: Unit 2 continues the writer's journey towards effective writing by having students select appropriate evidence and developing relevant, meaningful commentary. Students will read and write multi-paragraph informational and persuasive texts on areas of interest. Student portfolios should include informational and persuasive writing samples.

Independent Reading: Student choice (informational articles around topic(s) of choice)

Practical Writing Skills TEKS: 1A, 1B, 1D, 2A, 2B, *2D, *2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4B, 5B, *5F, 5H, 6A
ELA TEKS: *10.5C; *10.9B

Unit 3: Structure and Language

Unit Context: This unit broadens the focus on using the writing process to develop effectively structured multi-paragraph essays. Students should read and analyze effectively structured essays with various organizational structures and authors' use of figurative language, imagery, mood, and rhetorical devices. Student portfolios should reflect their growing ability to write in various lengths, modes, and organizational structures.

Independent Reading: Student choice (argumentative model texts and short fiction)

Practical Writing Skills TEKS: 1A, 1B, 1D, 1E, 2A, 2B, *2C, 2D, *2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, *5D, *5E, 5G, 5H, 6B
ELA TEKS: *10.9B

Unit 4: Revising and Editing

Unit Context: This unit focuses on the independent completion of the writing process. During this unit, students should practice writing for the EOC question types and explore the expectations present in the corresponding rubric. The new learning for this unit is a focus on revising and editing drafts. Students will use their portfolio to develop polished final drafts of their best writing from each genre.

Independent Reading: Student choice

Practical Writing Skills TEKS: 1A, 1B, *1C, 1D, 1E, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, *2E, *2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 4B, *4C
ELA TEKS: *10.9Bi