

**CARTERVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**WRITING CURRICULUM**  
**GRADE 6**  
Revised 2009

**FIRST NINE WEEKS - Focus: Persuasive Essay**

- 1. Recognize author's purpose of a persuasive essay.
- 2. Identify different examples of persuasive writing.
- 3. Recognize the 5 paragraph organization and key characteristics of a persuasive essay.
- 4. Analyze and evaluate an issue in terms of pros and cons in order to choose a position and main arguments (*Empowering Writers - Persuasive, 119*).
- 5. Write an effective introduction paragraph that includes a strong lead, 3 main arguments, and a clear issue statement:
  - Recognize and utilize a variety of different leads: **statement of concern, embracing a high ideal, descriptive segment, bandwagon statement, rhetorical question, quote/testimonial, statistic, anecdote** (*Empowering Writers - Persuasive, 208*).
- 6. Write effective body paragraphs that include specific, distinct main arguments (*Empowering Writers-Persuasive, 116*).
- 7. Write effective body paragraphs that include powerful supporting details and elaboration.
  - Use **detail generating questions** to create powerful persuasive details and elaboration: **What does it look like? Why is that important to your argument? Can you give a specific example? Did you acknowledge the opposing view and follow it with a "yes, but..."? Did you invite your audience to "join the bandwagon"?** (*Empowering Writers - Persuasive, 157*).
  - Recognize and identify **quotes, anecdotes, and statistics**, and recognize how these details can be used to SHOW rather than TELL (*Empowering Writers - Persuasive, 187*).
  - Recognize and understand the importance of using transitional words and phrases within the paragraphs.

- 8. Write an effective conclusion paragraph that includes a restatement of the author's opinion, the 3 main arguments, and a call to action statement.
  - Use specific techniques to write a powerful conclusion: **a now or never statement, vivid language, highlight the most important argument, a definitive word or phrase, a call to action** (*Empowering Writers - Persuasive, 240*).

## **SECOND NINE WEEKS - Focus: Narrative Essay**

- 9. Recognize author's purpose of a narrative essay.
- 10. Recognize that a personal experience narrative essay follows a beginning, middle, end sequence and is highly descriptive (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 11.*)
- 11. Write an effective introduction paragraph that includes an attention getter and gives the basics of the story
  - Use specific techniques to write an exciting attention getter: **an action, dialogue, a thought or question, a sound** (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 51*).
- 12. Write 3 body paragraphs that follow the beginning, middle, end sequence.
  - Recognize the importance of **story critical characters, settings, and objects**, and distinguish them from irrelevant details (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 79*).
  - Recognize the power of **specific** rather than **general** details (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 79*).
  - Recognize the effectiveness of using **specific, productive detail generating questions** in order to generate powerful details (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 79*).
  - Recognize common weaknesses in narrative writing-listing details and redundant sentence structure-and master techniques to address such weaknesses (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 79*).
  - Elaborate on **what feelings look like**-showing how a character feels as opposed to telling how they feel (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 79*).
- 13. Build suspense or anticipation using **story questions, word referents**, or the **Magic of 3** technique (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 215*).
- 14. Write a fully elaborated main event paragraph using a balance of **action, description, thoughts/feelings, dialogue/exclamation**, and **sound effect** (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 259*)

- 15. Write a satisfying conclusion paragraph that provides a feeling of closure.
  - Use specific techniques to write a conclusion paragraph: **a memory, a feeling, a decision, a wish or hope, a defining action** (Empowering Writers - Narrative, 306)

### **THIRD NINE WEEKS - Focus: Persuasive Essay & Narrative Essay Review**

- 16. Review and practice writing techniques mastered during 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

### **FOURTH NINE WEEKS - Focus: Expository Essay**

- 17. Recognize author's purpose of an expository essay.
- 18. Identify different examples of expository writing.
- 19. Recognize the 5 paragraph organization and key characteristics of an expository essay.
- 20. Analyze and identify givens and variables in expository prompts (*Empowering Writers - Expository, 146*).
- 21. Generate, sort, and categorize broad, yet distinct main ideas for given expository prompt (*Empowering Writers - Expository, 118*).
- 22. Write an effective introduction paragraph that includes a strong lead (*attention getter*), 3 main ideas, and a clear topic sentence (*Empowering Writers - Expository, 306-307*).
  - Recognize and utilize a variety of different leads: **quote, statistic, amazing fact, anecdote, descriptive segment, question** (*Empowering Writers - Expository, 243, 304-305*).
- 23. Write effective body paragraphs that include broad, yet distinct main ideas (*Empowering Writers - Expository, 115*).
- 24. Write effective body paragraphs that include powerful supporting details and elaboration.
  - Use **detail generating questions** to create powerful and vivid expository details and elaboration: **What does it "look" like? Why is that important? Can you give a specific example? Is each detail in a separate sentence?** (*Empowering Writers - Expository, 187*)

- Become familiar with and utilize **quotes, anecdotes, statistics, amazing facts, and descriptive segments** to SHOW rather than TELL (*Empowering Writers – Expository, 243*).
  - Recognize and understand the importance of using transitional words and phrases within the paragraphs (*Empowering Writers – Expository, 260*).
25. Write an effective and creative conclusion paragraph that “sums up” the main ideas and topic and the expository piece.
- Use specific techniques to write a powerful conclusion: **restate each main idea as a question, word referents, definitive words/phrases, restatement of general thesis statement** (*Empowering Writers – Expository, 343*).

**THE FOLLOWING SKILLS WILL BE TAUGHT AND REINFORCED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR:**

- Word choice
- Sentence variety
- Transitions

\*After mastering the skills necessary to write each essay, students will be able to write each type in a timed, 55-minute session.