

Course/Grade Level: Sixth Grade Language Arts Curriculum

Focus: Students will utilize the writing process by producing and examining pieces of detailed writing. They will construct writing pieces using the narrative, expository, and persuasive modes with an emphasis on expository writing and literary essays.

Required support materials: "Units of Study for Teaching Writing" (Calkins); Books 3 & 5
Book 3: *Breathing Life into Essays* and Book 5: *Literary Essays: Writing About Reading*

Spelling resource: "Lessons That Change Writers" (Atwell)

LA.6.1 Students will write *narrative text* using the writing process.*

Students will ...

- LA.6.1.1 use *ideas and content* that are well developed, clear, and interesting (prewriting, drafting, and revising).
- understand and develop a main idea (**plot, setting, and characters**) by writing to a prompt
 - clarify the main idea by selecting relevant details that enrich **the central theme or storyline**
- LA.6.1.2 use *organization* that enhances the reader's understanding (prewriting, drafting, revising).
- write a piece with an inviting introduction, appropriate body, and satisfying conclusion that leaves the reader with a sense of resolution
- LA.6.1.3 use authentic and appropriate *voice* (prewriting, drafting, and revising).
- **write to convey the tone and personality to engage the reader**
- LA.6.1.4 use effective *word choice* (prewriting, drafting, and revising).
- LA.6.1.5 use *sentence fluency* (drafting and revising).
- **use dialogue so that it sounds conversational and natural**
- LA.6.1.6 use standard American English *conventions* (drafting and proofreading) (see appendix)

LA.6.2 Students write *expository* text using the writing process.*

Students will...

- LA.6.2.1 use *ideas and content* that are well developed, clear, and interesting (prewriting, drafting, and revising).
- practice writing using an appropriate point of view for the piece (e.g., 3rd person pronouns)
 - express information in own words by paraphrasing and/or summarizing using evidence and examples
 - cite references for all information used or reproduced from any source
- LA.6.2.2 use *organization* that enhances the reader's understanding (prewriting, drafting, and revising).
- LA.6.2.3 use authentic and appropriate *voice* (prewriting, drafting, and revising).
- LA.6.2.4 use effective *word choice* (prewriting, drafting, and revising).
- **practice specialized vocabulary that is appropriate for expository writing and provide for ease of understanding**
- LA.6.2.5 use *sentence fluency* (drafting and revising).
- LA.6.2.6 use American English *conventions* (drafting and revising). (see appendix)
- use correct paragraph division to reinforce the organizational structure of the text

LA.6.3 Students will write *persuasive* text using the writing process.*

Students will...

- LA.6.3.1 use *ideas and content* that are well developed, clear, and interesting (prewriting, drafting, and revising).
- **compose a thesis statement based upon an opinion or belief**
 - use an appropriate point of view for the piece (e.g., 1st person pronouns)
 - **develop details to expand the main topic and to support the writer's position**
 - **anticipate the reader's question(s) and provide balance with a counter-argument**
 - **practice building a focused argument**
- LA.6.3.2 use *organization* that enhances the reader's understanding (prewriting, drafting, and revising).
- LA.6.3.3 use an authentic and appropriate *voice* (prewriting, drafting, and revising).
- LA.6.3.4 use effective *word choice* (prewriting, drafting, and revising).
- LA.6.3.5 use *sentence fluency* (drafting and revising).
- LA.6.3.6 use standard American English *conventions* (see appendix)

6th Grade Language Arts Appendix - Grammar

Parts of speech

- nouns: singular, plural, possessives
- pronouns: personal, possessive, demonstrative, indefinite
- verbs: action, linking, helping
- adjectives
- adverbs
- prepositions and prepositional phrases
- conjunctions: and, but, for not, or, so, yet
- interjections
- subject-verb agreement

Sentence Structure

- simple and complete subjects, simple and complete predicates
- simple and compound sentences

Capitalization

Punctuation

- end punctuation
- commas
- apostrophes
- quotation marks

Word study

- homophones
- homographs
- compound words

6th Grade Language Arts Appendix - The Writing Process

The process of writing occurs in several stages:

- 1 **PRE-WRITING**: The pre-writing step includes, but is not limited to, exploring topics, brainstorming, webbing, choosing a topic, gathering details, and organizing before beginning to write.
- 2 **DRAFTING**: The drafting step involves getting ideas down on paper in a rough format.
- 3 **REVISING**: The revising step involves reworking and rewriting the draft to improve its content and structure. Any work with ideas and content, sentence fluency, voice, organization, and word choice falls under this step.
- 4 **PROOFREADING**: The proofreading step includes correcting errors in grammar, spelling, and mechanics. It may involve a prescribed set of proofreading marks. Correcting conventions fall under this step.
- 5 **PUBLISHING**: The publishing step is the sharing of prepared work with others in oral and/or written form.

Note: Both the revising and proofreading steps encompass editing, but the specific terms "revising" and "proofreading" are preferable to the more vague "editing."