

Minnesota Writing Project

---Demonstration Lesson---

Title of lesson: Personal Narratives

Suggested grade/age: First Grade/ 6-7 year olds.

Approximate time needed to complete lesson: 9 to 18 weeks. (I teach it for 18 weeks.)

Learning objective(s) and significance of lesson:

It is important as it teaches children the writing process and teaches them that they are writers (think, draw, say it, clap it, count it, write it, reread to make sure it says what you said it would say).

I want the students to be able to write a personal narrative that stays on topic, has an introduction, and some type of closure, with 8-12 details in between.

Best Practices is an 8-12 minute mini lesson (One skill very focused), guided practice, turn and talks with writing partner, independent practice, conferring, and sharing.

There is scaffolding built into each writing lesson, so that all students will be successful writing their personal narratives.

Mentor Texts: You can use pretty much any book as a mentor text; just make sure you have read it before you read it to the class. Also make sure you have read it to the class before using it as mentor text. Do not use the whole book. The students should be familiar with the book so you can pick out the skill to share.

Brief summary/outline of lesson:

This lesson is at the beginning of the year. We start off with teaching the writing processes of thinking about what we are going to write about (I think aloud to help students see what is going on in my head). We draw what we are going to write, say our sentences out loud, clap our sentences, count our words so that when we write we are sure to get our complete sentence down on paper.

Teach editing strategies.

Blue Dot = dot under each word as you read it.

Green Dot = dot under first letter of sentence as long as it is capital

Red Dot = making a red dot/ or circle punctuation. Make sure you have the same number of green dots as red dots.

Purple dot = marking the vowels in each syllable, as all words need at least one vowel.

Yellow Highlighter = checking the spelling of our High Frequency/Word wall words, if spelled correctly they get to highlight it. If not they have to fix it and then highlight.

Related Resources:

Different types of paper for all (loose leaf, to journals)
Flair markers in red, green, blue, purple, and a yellow highlighter
I use the app See Saw for the students to “publish” their writing
A Doc camera is very nice, so students can see you writing
Chart paper
Spaceman for children that have trouble with putting spaces between their words.
Flexible seating (can be as simple as a bath rug or the kneeling pads for gardening)

Possible extensions or adaptations for different purposes/student needs:

Adaptations: different paper for students; lined or unlined.
For the student that spends the whole time erasing, give them a pen to write with.

For additional information, contact:

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