

**CARTERVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**WRITING CURRICULUM**  
**GRADES 7 & 8**  
*Revised 2009*

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

- 1. Recognize the author's purpose of a persuasive essay.
- 2. Identify different examples of persuasive writing, along with their respective strengths and weaknesses.
- 3. Recognize the 5 paragraph organization and key characteristics of a persuasive essay, including the lead, thesis and method statements, main arguments, supports and details, and author comment.
- 4. Pre-write effectively, using graphic organizers and other brainstorming techniques.
  - Before writing, 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, references the prompt, and integrates both a clear thesis statement expressing issue position and a method statement outlining the three main arguments.
  - Recognize and utilize a variety of different leads, including but not limited to **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 topic sentences expressing specific, distinct main arguments (*Empowering Writers-Persuasive, 116*).
- 7. Write effective body paragraphs that integrate powerful supporting details and elaboration through fluid sentences using a variety of structures.
  - Consider **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 understand how these details can be used to SHOW rather than TELL (*Empowering Writers - Persuasive, 187*).
  - Recognize and understand the importance of using a wide variety of transitional words and phrases within and between the paragraphs. Integrate transitions appropriately and through varied sentence structure, including complex sentences and adverb clauses.
8. Write an effective conclusion paragraph that includes a restatement of the thesis and method statements, along with an author comment. Adapt sentence structure and use fresh word choice so that ideas align with the introduction paragraph but are expressed uniquely.
- Use specific techniques to write a powerful conclusion, including but not limited to **a now or never statement, vivid language, highlight the most important argument, a definitive word of phrase, a call to action** (*Empowering Writers - Persuasive, 240*).

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

9. Recognize the author's purpose of a narrative essay.
10. Recognize that a narrative essay follows a sequential format, is highly descriptive, and emphasizes the emotions and reactions of characters (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 11*).
11. Write an effective introduction paragraph that includes a strong lead, references the prompt, suggests the setting, and transitions into the story.
- Use specific techniques to write an exciting attention getter, including but not limited to **an action, dialogue, a thought or question, a sound** (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 51*).
12. Write body paragraphs that follow a sequential plot structure (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution).
- Recognize the importance of **story critical characters, settings, and objects**, and distinguish them from irrelevant details (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 79*).
  - Use fresh and specific details (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 79*), considering **specific, productive detail generating questions** as needed (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 79*).
  - Focus on SHOWING versus TELLING, utilizing a strong sense of voice throughout the narrative (*Empowering Writers - Narrative, 79*).

- 13. Build suspense and anticipation effectively.
- 14. Use properly punctuated dialogue to enhance the narrative.
- 15. Write a fully elaborated climax paragraph (*Empowering Writers – Narrative, 259*).
- 16. Write a satisfying conclusion paragraph that provides a feeling of closure.
  - Include an effective author’s comment that expresses the impact and importance of the experience described in the narrative (*Empowering Writers – Narrative, 306*).

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

- 17. Recognize the author’s purpose of an expository essay, including how it is distinct from a persuasive.
- 18. Identify and critique different examples of expository writing.
- 19. Recognize and apply the 5 paragraph structure and key characteristics of an expository essay, maintaining an emphasis on facts.
- 20. Pre-write effectively, using graphic organizers and other brainstorming techniques.
  - Generate, sort, and categorize broad, yet distinct, main ideas for a given expository prompt (*Empowering Writers – Expository, 118*).
- 21. Write an effective introduction paragraph that includes a strong lead, references the prompt, and integrates a clear thesis and method statement (*Empowering Writers – Expository, 306-307*).
  - Recognize and utilize a variety of different leads, including but not limited to **quote, statistic, amazing fact, anecdote, descriptive segment, question** (*Empowering Writers – Expository, 243, 304-305*).
- 22. Write effective body paragraphs that include broad, yet distinct, main ideas expressed in well-structured topic sentences (*Empowering Writers – Expository, 115*).

23. Write effective body paragraphs that include powerful supporting details and elaboration.
- Consider **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?*** (*Empowering Writers – Expository, 187*).
  - Become familiar with and, where appropriate, 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 a wide variety of transitional words and phrases within and between the paragraphs (*Empowering Writers – Expository, 260*). Integrate transitions appropriately and through varied sentence structure, including complex sentences and adverb clauses.
24. Write an effective and creative conclusion paragraph that includes a restatement of the thesis and method statements, along with an author comment. Adapt sentence structure and use fresh word choice so that ideas align with the introduction paragraph but are expressed uniquely.
- Use specific techniques to write a powerful conclusion, including but not limited to ***restate each main idea as a question, word referents, and definitive words/phrases*** (*Empowering Writers – Expository, 343*).

#### **FOURTH NINE WEEKS - Focus: Persuasive, Narrative, and Expository Essay Review**

25. Review and practice writing techniques mastered during 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters.

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

- Ideas
- Word choice
- Voice
- Sentence Fluency
- Organization (including transitions)
- Conventions

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