

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents, Day 1

Name: _____

Date: _____

8. Bridge to a language activity

Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 179

Read: pg. 179 Writing News Stories, Sample Editorial

Activity: Answer the following questions about writing news stories.

1. What are some of the topics addressed by editorial news stories?

2. What is the difference between a news story and an editorial, if any?

Activity: Read the sample editorial written by Ebony Lewis and answer the following questions.

1. What is this sample editorial about?

2. How does the author feel about her topic? How can you tell?

3. Do you think this is a good editorial? Why or why not?

4. Is this a well-written editorial? Are there any things you would change about this editorial?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
How the García Girls Lost their Accents, Day 2

Name: _____

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Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 180

Read: pg. 180 Tips for Writing an Editorial

Activity: Answer the following questions about writing an editorial.

1. How can you tell if an editorial is effective?

2. Why is it important to choose a current topic? Would you rather read about something that happened 2 years ago, or something that happened yesterday?

3. What does it mean to be direct? Why is it important to be direct in news writing?

4. What are the five questions that you should ask in order to plan a strong argument?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
How the García Girls Lost their Accents, Day 3

Name: _____

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Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 180

Read: pg. 180 Tips for Writing an Editorial

Activity: Answer the following questions about writing an editorial.

1. Where should you place your strongest argument within your editorial?

2. What kind of vocabulary should you use in your writing? Why is this important?

3. Read the two examples of an editorial. Which is the most effective and why?

- a. Professional athletes procure agents because professional sports often revolve around economic incentives. Sports in secondary school institutions ought to be primarily focused on the game. Parents who assume the role of agents, usurping the authority of coaches, and storming into school board meetings, divest their progeny of the true felicity of sports.
- b. Pro athletes have agents because pro sports are often about money. High school sports should be about the game. Parents who act like agents, criticizing coaches and storming into school-board meetings, rob their sons and daughters of the true benefits of sports.

4. Should you use an editorial to attack an opposing position or person? Why or why not?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
How the García Girls Lost their Accents, Day 4

Name: _____

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Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 284

Read: pg. 284 Using Logic to Persuade

Activity: Answer the following questions about using logic to persuade.

Imagine that you are writing a persuasive essay about your favorite movie. You will have to prove to your audience why they should also see this movie.

Follow the steps provided on page 284 to organize your argument so that you could write a persuasive essay.

1. Thoroughly research your subject using books, the internet, magazines, and other sources to gather information.
2. Form an opinion. Why is this your favorite movie?

3. Write an opinion statement following the formula:

a. A specific subject

+

A specific opinion

= a good opinion statement

4. Support your opinion with clear, provable facts.

Example:

Opinion: *Transformers* is a very good movie and is very popular.

Provable fact: *Transformers* was the number one movie at the box office in it's opening weekend.

5. Organize your facts in one of two ways
 - a. State your opinion in the topic sentence or thesis statement, and then support it with specific facts

OR

- b. Begin by presenting specific facts, and then lead up to a concluding or ending statement that contains your opinion

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
How the García Girls Lost their Accents, Day 5

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 285

Read: pg. 285 Avoiding Unclear Thinking

Activity: Identify the following examples of unclear thinking:

1. Because that candy bar gave me an upset stomach, all chocolate must be poisoned.

2. Brown bears occasionally attack campers or hunters who go too far into their territory, and therefore all brown bears should be shot when you see them because they will definitely attack.

3. America is the best country in the world because all people want to live here.

4. The plane was delayed, so there must definitely be something wrong with it.

5. My parents gave me a curfew so they must think that I'm going to commit a crime.

6. Burger King has the best hamburgers because all of my friends like them.

Activity: Answer the following questions about avoiding unclear thinking.

1. Why should you avoid unclear thinking in your writing?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
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Name: _____

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Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 286

Read: pg. 286 Avoiding Unclear Thinking

Activity: Answer the following questions about avoiding unclear thinking.

1. Why should you avoid unclear thinking in your writing?

Activity: Write examples of the kinds of unclear thinking on page 286 and then explain why you should not use them.

1. Weak or misleading comparisons:

2. Statement that appeals only to the reader's feelings:

3. Half-Truth:

4. Reducing a solution to two possible extremes:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents, Day 7

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 353

Read: pg. 353 Speaking and Listening Skills

Activity: Answer the following questions about speaking and listening skills.

1. How do you feel about speaking in front of a lot of people? Does it scare you?

2. Why do you think a lot of people are afraid of public speaking?

3. How is public speaking like a performance?

4. What is the purpose of a speech?

5. Why is it important to be able to communicate your ideas clearly?

6. Where might good public speaking skills come in handy?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
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Name: _____

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Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 354

Read: pg. 354 Planning Your Speech

Activity: Answer the following questions about planning your speech.

1. What are the three basic types of speech?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Activity: Begin planning a speech that you will give to the class. Choose the kind of speech that you would like to give from the three basic types of speeches.

After you have chosen the type of speech you would like to give, you will need to pick a topic for your speech.

Brainstorm a list of possible topics:

1. Choose one topic from the list that you will write your speech about.

2. Do you know this topic well? Do you want to learn about this topic?

3. Will your topic interest your listeners? Why?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
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Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 355

Read: pg. 355 Planning Your Speech, Find Information

Activity: Continue planning your speech using the topic you chose yesterday.

Find information about your topic for your speech.

1. Where are some of the places you might look to find information about your topic?

2. Make a list of information about your topic:

3. Should you include pictures or other graphics in your speech?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents, Day 10

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 355

Read: pg. 355 Planning Your Speech, Write Your Beginning

Activity: After gathering information about your topic, write your beginning for your speech.

1. Why is it important to write an interesting beginning for your speech?

2. Look at the six ideas that you can use for the beginning of your speech. Choose one of these ideas and write the beginning for your speech.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
How the García Girls Lost their Accents, Day 11

Name: _____

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Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 356

Read: pg. 356 Planning Your Speech, Organize Your Ideas, Think of an Effective Ending

Activity: After writing your beginning, continue by writing out your main points and supporting facts

Main idea: _____

Supporting details: _____

Main idea: _____

Supporting details: _____

Main idea: _____

Supporting details: _____

Activity: Think of an effective ending for your speech.

1. Why is it important to have an effective ending for your speech?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents, Day 12

Name: _____

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Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 357

Read: pg. 357 Creating Note Cards

Activity: Plan the notecards that you will use for your speech using the following templates.

Beginning	1

	2

	3

	4

Ending	5

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
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Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 358

Read: pg. 358 Writing Your Speech

Activity: Answer the following questions about speech writing.

1. Why would you choose to write your speech instead of using note cards?

2. Do you think it would be easier to read your speech from note cards or would it be easier to read it all written out?

3. Write out your speech. Then choose whether you would rather use the written out speech or the note cards.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents, Day 14

Name: _____

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Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 359

Read: pg. 359 Practicing Your Speech, Giving Your Speech

Activity: Practice your speech.

Begin by practicing your speech alone, making sure to emphasize important words and to practice making eye contact with your audience.

Choose a partner and give your speech. Ask for suggestions to make the speech clearer.

Try to memorize as much as your speech as you can, using your note cards as a guide.

Activity: Answer the following questions about giving your speech.

1. What should you do before your give your speech?

2. What are some of the things you should do while you are giving your speech?

3. What should you do if you lose your place when you are giving your speech?

4. Do you think people will have questions after you give your speech?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
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Name: _____

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Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 360

Read: pg. 360 Becoming a Good Listener

Activity: Answer the following questions about becoming a good listener.

1. Why should you try to become a good listener?

2. Why should you keep your hands still when you are listening to someone speak?

3. What can you do to show the speaker that you are listening to them?

4. What should you take notes about when you are listening to a speech?

5. What are some of the key words that you should listen for? What do those key words tell you?

6. What can the tone of voice tell you about a speaker and how they feel about their ideas?

Activity: Give your speech to the class or a small group of classmates. Make sure that if you are not giving your speech that you use the skills that make you a good listener.