

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 1

Name: _____
Date: _____

Read: Pg. 159, Biographical Writing

Activity: Answer the following questions.

1. According to the author, who is the easiest person to write about?

2. Who is the second easiest?

3. That type of writing is called...

4. Regardless of who you write about, what is the purpose of biographical writing?

5. List five people you know well that you might like to write about.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pgs. 160--161, Sample Biographical Essay: "He D.A.R.E.s to Make a Difference"

Activity: This biography has three parts, a beginning, a middle, and an end. According to the margins, the writer accomplishes certain things in each section. In the space provided, explain how the author accomplishes each:

1. Beginning- The Writer uses a story to introduce her subject. What happens in the story?

2. Middle- She shares the exact words of her subject. Write the quote here.

3. Middle- She also includes specific details about her subject. What are those details?

4. End- The writer closes with an important piece of advice. Write the advice here:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 3

Name _____
Date: _____

READ: Pgs. 160-61 Sample Biography Essay

Activity: Consider the list of five people you made previously. Choose one you are likely to write about. Use the Beginning, Middle and End Prompts to help you plan the story.

1. Beginning- Use a story to introduce your subject:

2. Middle- Include a quote or two you're your subject:

3. Middle- Include specific details about your subject:

4. End- Close with an important piece of advice:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 4

Name: _____
Date: _____

Read: Pg. 162, Prewriting

Activity: List as many people as possible that might fit into each of the following categories

1. Family members or friends: _____

2. People who have influenced you positively: _____

3. Other people that interest you: _____

Read: Pg. 162, Gathering Details

Activity: No matter who you are writing about, the sources of information are the same. List them below.

1. _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 5

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pg. 163, Writing: Writing the First Draft

Activity: As the final product of this novel, you are going to write a biographical narrative. The central character will be someone you know well. The action will take place around some historic or otherwise significant event. It will end with an important lesson. Use the space below to plan the beginning, middle and end of your narrative.

Beginning- Say something interesting about the central character. Tell what the story is going to be about.

Middle – Organize your story according to time or importance:

Ending – Explain the importance of the story:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 6

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pg. 164, Revising: Improving Your Writing

Activity: Copy down the five revision questions below. You will use them shortly to revise your journal prompt.

- _____ 1. _____

- _____ 2. _____

- _____ 3. _____

- _____ 4. _____

- _____ 5. _____

Read: Pg. 164, Editing

Activity: Fill in the blanks. Then complete the steps using today's journal.

Check your revised writing first for _____ - the smoothness of your sentences and the effectiveness of your _____. Then check it for correctness-_____, punctuation, usage, and _____ errors.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 7

Name: _____
Date: _____

Read: Pg. 165-166, A closer look at biographical writing and “Please Excuse Leah”

Activity: Use the Writing Tips on page 165 to answer the questions about the story on page 166.

1. What background information does Jesse Niebor provide about her sister Leah?

2. Does the author use any transitions or introductory phrases?

3. What information does the author simply summarize for you?

Activity: Think about your biography. What specific event might you focus on, and which events might you choose to simply summarize?

1. _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 8

Read: Pg. 173, Writing News Stories

Name: _____

Date: _____

Activity: List the three basic reporting skills:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Read: Pg. 174, Ramos Wins Award

Activity: List the three most important facts that Janelle Amos had to collect in order to write this story on the Delmer High School Senior-of-the-Year Award.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Activity: Pretend you are a reporter in Flint, 1963. List the five most important facts from today's story.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 9

Name: _____
Date: _____

Read: Pg. 175, Writing Guidelines and Prewriting

Activity: Answer the following questions.

1. What five questions should be answered in the introductory paragraph?

2. List the who, what, where, when, and why for a local news story you are aware of.

3. List the who, what, when, where, and why for a human interest story about someone close to you.

4. List the who, what, when, where and why of today's Watsons Go to Birmingham reading.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 10

Name: _____
Date: _____

Read: Pg. 176, Gathering Details and Interview Tips

Activity: Write five interview questions you would ask the central character in your biography. Each question should start with Who, What, When, Where or Why.

1. Who:

2. What:

3. Where:

4. When:

5. Why:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 11

Name: _____
Date: _____

Read: Pg. 177, Writing

Activity: Answer the questions below.

1. What should you include in your lead paragraph?

2. How are news stories generally written?

3. What should happen the further you get from the story?

4. Where do the rest of the details not mentioned in the introduction go? In the Beginning, Middle or End?

5. Should you use quotations in a news article? How often?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 12

Name: _____
Date: _____

Read: Pg. 177, Revising Improving Your Writing

Activity: Copy the Revision checklist. You will use it to revise today's writing prompt.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 13

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pg. 178, Editing: Checking for Style and Correctness

Activity: Complete the sentences on editing below.

1. First, _____

2. Then, _____

Activity: Use the editing tools to edit the following mistakes.

1. Fix the spelling in speling.
2. Provide a more specific noun for acceptance *talk*.
3. Correct this sentence fragment. I like her. Helped us out a lot.
4. Make a correction in capitalization to byron Watson.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 14

Name: _____
Date: _____

Read: Pg. 353, Speaking and Listening Skills

Activity: Answer the following questions.

1. What do you think is the best way to overcome the fear of public speaking?

2. According to paragraph two, what two things are needed to “give an effective speech?”

3. What is the purpose of a speech?

4. What’s ahead?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 15

Name: _____
Date: _____

Read: pg 354-55 Planning Your Speech: Pick a topic and Find Information

Activity: Answer the following questions.

1. List three things you should consider when choosing a topic.

2. What possible information topics should you consider when planning your speech?

3. What are the five possible persuasive topics?

4. What are three examples for possible demonstration topics?

5. Where are suggested places to find information for your speech?

6. What suggestions did Write Ahead make about finding information?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 16

Name: _____
Date: _____

Read: pg 354-56 Planning Your Speech: Write your beginning, Organize your ideas and Think of an effective ending

Activity: Answer the following questions.

1. List six ideas for starting your speech

2. How should you write out your beginning?

3. What can you do to make your speech easier to give and understand?

4. What can you do to keep your speech in order?

5. What two things should you never end your speech with?

6. How should you end your speech?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 17

Read: Pgs. 354-355, Planning Your Speech

Name: _____

Date: _____

Activity: Match the following speech topics with the correct type of speech.

- A. Persuasive
- B. Informational
- C. Demonstrative

- _____ An unusual hobby
- _____ A famous person
- _____ A new school rule
- _____ Cooking a favorite food
- _____ A community action
- _____ A type of music
- _____ How to play an instrument
- _____ How to install a record player in a 46 Ultra Glide
- _____ Children should wear uniforms at school
- _____ How to bury a dead pigeon
- _____ Welfare in the United States
- _____ A history of Flint Michigan
- _____ A history of the Civil Rights Movement

Activity: List six places you might find information for a speech.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Activity: List six types of beginnings for a speech

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Activity: Think about the OMP you just made for a courageous character in your biography. Come up with three ways to begin an informational speech on this person.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
www.scu.edu/character

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 18

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: 354-56, Planning Your Speech

Activity: Think about the newspaper article you began earlier today. Write a powerful and effective ending for your news story. Use Dan's example to point you in the right direction.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 19

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pgs. 357-358, Creating Note Cards, Writing Your Speech

Activity: Having read the long drive, write a similar ending for your dialogue between Byron and Kenny. It should include the lesson Kenny needs to learn.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963, Day 20

Name: _____
 Date: _____

Read: Pgs. 359-360, Practicing and Giving Your Speech, Becoming a Good Listener

Activity: Write down at least two things you feel are important to remember from each of the “Giving Your Speech Categories.”

Before...

- _____
- _____

During...

- _____
- _____

After...

- _____
- _____

Activity: Write down the six major points in “Becoming a Good Listener.”

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Activity: In your journal today you are going to write the epilogue to your story, You are going to Write an introduction, a summary that includes the setting and the context, and a conclusion that explicitly states your purpose in telling this story and the lesson you hope the reader will learn. Using the cards on 357 as an example, make notes for your epilogue on the cards you created previously today.