

## Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing, a Common Core workshop curriculum

The components of the writing performance assessments include:

- Writing Learning Progressions, Pre-K to 6: Three Common Core State Standard-aligned charts are at the center of this assessment system. They describe what development can look like from pre-K to grade 6 in the categories of opinion writing, information writing, and narrative writing.
- Prompts and Descriptors for On-Demand Performance Assessments: To begin and end units of study in the three categories of writing, writing prompts have been developed for teachers to collect student writing to assess and interpret. These prompts direct students to build the best piece of writing they can--narrative, information, or opinion/argument, depending on the unit--in forty-five minutes. Then, teachers can take the resulting pieces, match them up to the learning progressions, and track student progress. The prompts given to students are the same across the school so that the resulting data can be used more widely and to greater effect.
- Rubrics for Assessing Writing: For each grade, there is one assessment rubric for each of the three kinds of writing. These rubrics stem from the learning progressions and are, of course, closely aligned to the checklists. These rubrics allow for scoring a piece of writing with a number, based on the grade level with which it aligns in the learning progression.
- Checklists of Criteria for Writing at Each Level: For each of the three learning progressions there is a checklist at each grade level for students and teachers to use. For students, these checklists are intended to be for self-assessment and goal-setting, as well as for writing rehearsal, revision, and editing. For teachers, these checklists are meant to aid in accelerating student achievement and differentiating instruction.
- Exemplar Pieces of Student Writing at each Level: There are two student writing examples for each of the three learning progressions, to go with each checklist at each grade level. These examples illustrate different ways different students have exemplified the standards.
- Exemplar Pieces of Writing Developed across Levels: There are corresponding pieces of writing provided for each of the three learning progressions, one each for K-6, each revised to demonstrate the grade-level standards.