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# Contents

## Writing

### UNIT 1

**David’s New Friends**  
- Personal Narrative  
  Transparency 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

**Mr. Putter & Tabby Pour the Tea**  
- Personal Narrative: Description  
  Transparency 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

**Time for Kids:**  
**Family Farm—Then and Now**  
- Expository Report  
  Transparency 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

**Meet Rosina**  
- Friendly Letter  
  Transparency 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

**My Name Is Yoon**  
- Personal Narrative: Journal Entry  
  Transparency 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

### UNIT 2

**Babu’s Song**  
- Story  
  Transparency 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36

**Doña Flor**  
- Expository: Directions  
  Transparency 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42

**Time for Kids:**  
**A Tall Tale**  
- Expository: Research Report  
  Transparency 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48

**One Grain of Rice**  
- Friendly Letter  
  Transparency 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54

**African-American Inventors**  
- Expository: Biography  
  Transparency 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60

### UNIT 3

**The Alvin Ailey Kids:**  
**Dancing as a Team**  
- Persuasive: Advertisement  
  Transparency 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66

**Abuelo and the Three Bears**  
- Story  
  Transparency 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72

**Time for Kids:**  
**Music of the Stone Age**  
- Expository  
  Transparency 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78

**Click, Clack, Moo:**  
**Cows That Type**  
- Friendly Letter  
  Transparency 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84

**Stirring Up Memories**  
- Descriptive Poem  
  Transparency 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90

### UNIT 4

**Head, Body, Legs:**  
**A Story from Liberia**  
- Personal Narrative  
  Transparency 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96

**Officer Buckle and Gloria**  
- Expository: Essay  
  Transparency 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102

**Time for Kids:**  
**A Trip to the Emergency Room**  
- Expository  
  Transparency 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108

**A Harbor Seal Pup Grows Up**  
- Friendly Letter  
  Transparency 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114

**Mice and Beans**  
- Descriptive Flyer  
  Transparency 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120

### UNIT 5

**The Tiny Seed**  
- Expository: How-to Poster  
  Transparency 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126

**The Ugly Vegetables**  
- Narrative: Story  
  Transparency 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132

**Time for Kids:**  
**Meet the Super Croc**  
- Expository: Research Report  
  Transparency 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138

**Farfallina and Marcel**  
- Friendly Letter  
  Transparency 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144

**Nutik, the Wolf Pup**  
- Expository: Book Report  
  Transparency 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150

### UNIT 6

**Dig, Wait, Listen:**  
**A Desert Toad’s Tale**  
- Friendly Letter  
  Transparency 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156

**Spish! Splash! Animal Baths**  
- Expository: Summary  
  Transparency 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162

**Time for Kids:**  
**A Way to Help Planet Earth**  
- Expository  
  Transparency 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168

**Super Storms**  
- Expository: Compare/Contrast  
  Transparency 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174

**Pushing Up the Sky**  
- Narrative: Play  
  Transparency 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180
### Unit Writing Process

#### Unit 1
- **Prewrite**  
  Transparency 1
- **Draft**  
  Transparency 2
- **Evaluate and Revise**  
  Transparency 3
- **Proofread/Edit**  
  Transparency 4
- **Raise the score draft**  
  Transparency 5
- **Raise the score revise**  
  Transparency 6

#### Unit 2
- **Prewrite**  
  Transparency 7
- **Draft**  
  Transparency 8
- **Evaluate and Revise**  
  Transparency 9
- **Proofread/Edit**  
  Transparency 10
- **Raise the score draft**  
  Transparency 11
- **Raise the score revise**  
  Transparency 12

#### Unit 3
- **Prewrite**  
  Transparency 13
- **Draft**  
  Transparency 14
- **Evaluate and Revise**  
  Transparency 15
- **Proofread/Edit**  
  Transparency 16
- **Raise the score draft**  
  Transparency 17
- **Raise the score revise**  
  Transparency 18

#### Unit 4
- **Prewrite**  
  Transparency 19
- **Draft**  
  Transparency 20
- **Evaluate and Revise**  
  Transparency 21
- **Proofread/Edit**  
  Transparency 22
- **Raise the score draft**  
  Transparency 23
- **Raise the score revise**  
  Transparency 24

#### Unit 5
- **Prewrite**  
  Transparency 25
- **Draft**  
  Transparency 26
- **Evaluate and Revise**  
  Transparency 27
- **Proofread/Edit**  
  Transparency 28
- **Raise the score draft**  
  Transparency 29
- **Raise the score revise**  
  Transparency 30

#### Unit 6
- **Prewrite**  
  Transparency 31
- **Draft**  
  Transparency 32
- **Evaluate and Revise**  
  Transparency 33
- **Proofread/Edit**  
  Transparency 34
- **Raise the score draft**  
  Transparency 35
- **Raise the score revise**  
  Transparency 36
Beginning
  upset
  joined softball team
  practiced catching
  couldn’t catch the ball

Middle
  mad at myself
  practiced batting
  couldn’t hit

End
  Coach helped me.
  excited
  practiced hitting
  hit the ball
Team Work
by Sophie P.

Last spring, I joined a softball team. First, we practised throwing and catching. It seemed like I was the only one who didn’t know how to catch. I felt upset.

Next, we practised batting. I watched as my best friend hit the ball twice. My turn to bat. I couldn’t hit the ball. I was so mad at myself.

But Coach Paula helped me. She said it takes time. She practised and practised with me. I hit the ball. I was so happy. Without her help, I think I would have quit.
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But Coach Paula helped me. She said it takes time. She practised and practised with me. I hit the ball. I was so happy. Without her help, I think I would have quit.
Moving
by Troy L.

We moved. I had to leave my friends. Did not want to come out of my room. What if no one likes me. A knock at the door. A boy asked if I liked to swim. Just gotten a pool. Marcus became my friend. He helped me.
Moving
by Troy L.

When I first moved here, I was sad about leaving my friends. I did not want to come out of my room. What if no one liked me?

Then one day there was a knock at the door. A boy in a bathing suit was standing there. He asked if I liked to swim. His family had just gotten a pool. His name was Marcus.

After that day, Marcus and I became friends. He helped me make other friends, too.
How to Grow Peppers

Step 1
Grow in a sunny place
Outside in warm weather
Needs a lot of sun

Step 2
Needs a lot of water
Water when soil is nearly dry

Step 3
Pick when big
How to Grow a Bell Pepper

by Ana R.

1. Buy the pepper plant when the weather gets warm. Place it in a sunny spot. Bell peppers need a lot of sun to grow.

2. Give the pepper plant a lot of water. Water it when the soil is nearly dry.

3. Pick the bell peppers when they are big. You can pick them green or red.
How to Grow a Bell Pepper
by Ana R.

1. Buy the pepper plant when the weather gets warm. Place it in a sunny spot. Bell peppers need a lot of sun to grow.

2. Give the pepper plant a lot of water. Water it when the soil is nearly dry.

3. Pick the bell peppers when they are big. You can pick them green or red. You can pick them green if you like a lot of flavor. Let them turn red if you like less flavor.
How to Grow a Bell Pepper

by Ana R.

1. Buy the pepper plant when the weather gets warm. Place it in a sunny spot. Bell peppers need a lot of sun to grow.

2. Give the pepper plant a lot of water. Water it when the soil is nearly dry.

3. Pick the bell pepper when they are big. You can pick them green or red.

   You can pick them green if you like a lot of flavor. Let them turn red if you like less flavor.
Growing Bean Seeds

by Lisa B.

1. Dig up the ground. Pick a sunny spot.

2. Water it.

3. Put been seeds in the ground. I think you cover them with soil.

4. When they sprout, water them.
Growing Bean Seeds

by Lisa B.

1. Choose a sunny place for your beans to grow. Dig up the soil to make it soft.

2. Water the soil thoroughly.

3. Put the bean seeds in the ground about 3 inches apart. Cover them with 1 inch of soil.

4. When the bean seeds sprout, water the plants to keep them from drying out.
Facts

It costs $15,000 per year to run the park.

The Parks Department does not have enough money to keep the park open.

It is scheduled to close before summer.

Opinions

Our community needs a park with a pool.

Children need a place to be with other children.

A solution must be found to keep Adams open.

Conclusions

Sign petition to keep Adams open.
October 15, 2---

Dear Editor,

Adams Park must stay open. The Parks Department does not have enough money to keep it open. The park is closing before summer.

I think our community needs a park with a pool. Children must have a place to be together. Families need a place to keep cool during hot summers.

The Parks Department and our community should work together. We need to keep our park open. Please sign the petition to keep Adams Park open.

Sincerely,

Steven J.
October 15, 2---

Dear Editor,

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The Parks Department and our community should work together. We need to keep our park open. Please sign the petition to keep Adams Park open.

Sincerely,

Steven J.
Dear Editor,

Electricity heats up the air around the erth. It changes our weather. It also changes where plants gro.

We shouldnt use so much.

Cal O.
October 23, 2---

Dear Editor,

We should all use less electricity. Making electricity heats up the air around the earth. This causes global warming. Global warming changes our weather. It also changes where plants will grow.

I think we can change this. We can shut off our lights and TV when we are not using them. I believe we can make a difference by using less electricity. Please use less.

Sincerely,

Cal O.
An earthquake is caused by shifts in Earth’s surface.

- plates cover Earth’s surface
- plates fit together
- plates moving or bumping cause quakes
What causes an earthquake?

by Austin C.

An earthquake is caused by shifts in Earth’s surface. Earthquakes are scary. Earth’s surface made of plates. The plates fit together. When the plates move or bump together they cause an earthquake. Then the ground shakes.
What causes an earthquake?

by Austin C.

An earthquake is caused by shifts in Earth’s surface. Earthquakes are scary. Earth’s surface made of plates. The plates fit together. When the plates move or bump together they cause an earthquake. Then the ground shakes.
What causes an earthquake?

by Austin C.

An earthquake is caused by shifts in Earth’s surface. Earthquakes are scary. Earth’s surface made of plates. The plates fit together. When the plates move or bump together, they cause an earthquake. Then the ground shakes.
The Moon

by Caleb B.

I can see the man in the moon. The moon goes around the earth. It is bright. Gets its light from the son. The moon’s shapes are called phases. Galileo made a telescope in the early 1600s. I wrote about the moon because I like the moon.
The Moon
by Caleb B.

The moon is Earth’s closest neighbor. It is the only thing in space that goes around Earth. The moon is the brightest thing in the night sky. It gets its light from the sun. From Earth, the moon seems to change shape. The different shapes that we see are called phases.
Problem
The cookies Alex puts on his plate keep disappearing.

Steps to Solution
1. He hides to see what is happening to them.
2. He discovers that a squirrel is coming in through the window and taking them.

Solution
He closes the window.
Alex Makes a Discovery
by Fernando R.

Alex sat in the kitchen. Snacking on a cookie. The telephone rang. When he got back, the cookie was gone. He covered another cookie with a napkin and went to talk to his mother. When he got back, that cookie was gone!

“What’s going on here?” alex asked.

Alex put out another cookie and hid. He saw a squirrel come in through the window and take the cookie!

Alex rushed to close the window.
Alex sat in the kitchen. Snacking on a cookie. The telephone rang. When he got back, the cookie was gone. He covered another cookie with a napkin and went to talk to his mother. When he got back, that cookie was gone!

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“What’s going on here?” Alex asked.

Alex put out another cookie and hid. He saw a squirrel come in through the window and take the cookie!

Alex rushed to close the window.
Fun in the Rain

by Haley F.

They wanted to play. It was a beautiful day.

Let’s play in the yard!

There were no clouds. They walked to the end of the yard. All of a sudden they heard a loud noise. Thunder!

“Run! We’re going to get soaked!”

They ran toward garden shed. Inside was nice and dry. The rain came down, but they stayed dry. Played Garden Shop until mom called them in for lunch.
Fun in the Rain

by Haley F.

After breakfast Haley and her brother Tim wanted to play. They looked outside. There wasn’t a cloud in the sky.

“Let’s play in the yard!” Haley said to Tim.

They walked to the far end of the yard. All of a sudden they heard a loud noise. It was thunder! A big cloud began to cover the sun.

“Run!” said Tim. “We’re going to get soaked!”

Haley and Tim ran to Mom’s garden shed. Inside it was nice and dry. The rain came down, but Haley and Tim didn’t mind. They played Garden Shop until Mom called them in for lunch.
Both are big and heavy; both take you places; both are fun.

Boats:
- Move in the water; you pass fish and water; animals; goes up and down with waves.

Alike:
- Move in the water; you pass fish and water; animals; goes up and down with waves.

Planes:
- Move in the sky; you go through clouds; has wings to take you high.
Getting Around
by Marisa K.

Boats and planes are kinds of transportation, but they are different.

A boat takes you across water. Even though a boat is big and heavy, it goes light up and down.

A plane is also big and heavy. It takes you high in the air. It has wings to help it move threw the sky. You can look out the window and see clouds.

Boats and planes both take you to where you want to go. Trains take you places, too. A boat gets you across water and a plane takes you through the sky.
Getting Around

by Marisa K.

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Boats and planes both take you to where you want to go. Trains take you places, too. A boat gets you across water and a plane takes you through the sky.
On the Road to School

by Brandon T.

I take the bus to school but my big brother rides his bike. A bus and a bike are not the same.

Many people ride in a bus. A bus driver lets you on and drives you to school. The bus engine and the big, rubber wheels get you there fast. A bike has thinly wheels.

Only one person rides a bike. Even if you are real speedy, you cannot go as fast as a bus. There is no engine.

A bus and a bike both get you to school, but different.
On the Road to School

by Brandon T.

There are many ways to get to school. I take the bus and my big brother rides his bike. These are very different.

A bus can take many people at once. It has a powerful engine and big wheels. A bus driver lets you on and drives you to school quickly.

A bike is made for one person. It has thin wheels. The rider pedals to make it go. Even if you are really speedy on a bike, you will not be as fast as a bus.

Both a bus and a bike will get you where you need to go, but the ride is not the same.
The First Day of School

The first day of school was exciting and busy. I woke up early to pick out my favorite clothes. After breakfast, Mom drove me to school. Next, I walked to my classroom. I felt a little nervous to meet my new teacher. By lunch, I could tell that I was going to like my teacher. At the end of the day, I knew this school year would be great!
First
On the first day of school,
I was so excited
I woke up very early.

Next
I picked out my clothes and
then I ate breakfast.

Last
I fell back to sleep while I was
eating. When I woke up, my hair
was wet.
Today was the first day of school. The teacher smiled at us. My friends and I were excited to see one another. Our classroom was brightly decorated with reds, oranges, and yellows. Our happy teacher, Ms. Jones, smiled and greeted each of us by name. I already know that second grade will be a great year!

Possible response: I think “a” is the right answer. The paragraph is about the first day of school. It’s not just about the teacher.

WRITING PROMPT: Think about your first day of school. Write a paragraph about that day. Be sure to include a strong topic sentence.
Ready for School!

by Eileen S.

Today was the first day of school I was so excited I woke up early. I decided to pick out my school clothes. I picked my pants and my socks. Then I sat down to eat.

The next thing I knew, my mom was shaking me. I had fallen asleep in my cereal bowl.
Ready for School!

by Eileen S.

Today was the first day of school. I was so excited I woke up early. I decided to pick out my school clothes. I picked my pants and my socks. Then I sat down to eat.

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The next thing I knew, my mom was shaking me. I had fallen asleep in my cereal bowl!

I had wet hair. My face was sticky. What happened?
My Neighbor Sammy

My neighbor Sammy lives next door to me. He moved to the neighborhood about two years ago. Sammy is always nice to everyone and always greets people with a smile. He has brown eyes and short brown hair. He is thin and tall. I like to play with Sammy. We ride our bikes around the neighborhood or play in our backyards. I’m so glad that Sammy is my neighbor. He is a great friend!

The description is true and written in the first person. The description includes many different details. The writer expresses feelings.
Jenny

- wears glasses
- has freckles
- tells jokes and riddles
- long, red hair
- funny
My rabbit Chunky is the best pet in the world! Chunky is two years old and has beautiful brown fur. Can you believe that he knows how to play fetch? If I throw my stuffed bear toward Chunky, he will pick it up with his teeth and bring it back to me. Isn’t he a smart bunny? I am so lucky to have such a wonderful pet!

Possible response: The author uses statements, exclamations, and questions in this paragraph. The sentences start with many different words.

WRITING PROMPT: Think about a real or made-up animal. Write a paragraph to describe that animal. Use different types of sentences in your writing.
My Funny Friend

by Benny B.

Jenny lives in the house next door to me. We have been friends a long time. Jenny has freckles. She also wears glasses. Jenny likes to tell jokes and riddles. When I want to laugh, I go visit my funny friend.
My Funny Friend

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### Questions

- What can older relatives teach us?
- What special skills do they have?
- How do they teach us?
- How can I find out more about their special talents?

### Possible Resources

- Nonfiction books about the talent;
- Interviews with older people, such as grandparents;
- Newspaper articles about the people
June 8, 1955—Last night a new dancer performed at the Grand Theater in Times Square, New York City. Karina Mostow is the newest member of the "Steppin’ Out" tap-dance group. Ms. Mostow’s dancing was marvelous. Her feet flew across the stage during the fast numbers. She excelled in all the dances when she had to tap out complicated rhythms with her feet. Do not miss Ms. Mostow and the other members of "Steppin’ Out" in their excellent show at the Grand Theater.
1. a. I have an aunt named Hannah.
   b. Aunt Hannah and I have been friends for ten years.
2. a. Aunt Hannah is teaching me to speak Italian, which she learned from her grandmother.
   b. Aunt Hannah is helping me learn Italian.
3. a. Aunt Hannah calls me.
   b. Aunt Hannah calls me to practice every single night.
4. a. We will go to Italy.
   b. Aunt Hannah and I plan to go to Italy next summer so we can speak in Italian every day.

Answers: 1b, 2a, 3b, 4b

WRITING PROMPT: Think about something you do with a family member. Write a paragraph about that activity. Include as many precise words as you can.
My Grandmother and Dance Teacher

by Paula K.

My grandmother Karina was a famous tap dancer in New York. She performed in many big shows. Her feet tapped so fast that photographs only show a blur. Last year, my grandmother started to teach me to tap dance. We practice together. She says that I am a fast learner. It is nice to learn something nice from my grandmother.
My Grandmother and Dance Teacher

by Paula K.

My grandmother Karina was a famous tap dancer in New York in the 1950s. She performed in many big shows. Her feet tapped so fast that photographs only show a blur. Last year, my grandmother started to teach me to tap dance. We practice together. She says that I am a fast learner. It is marvelous to learn something nice from my grandmother.
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October 9, 2--

Dear Aki,

My name is Jacob. I am seven years old and in second grade. I live in New York. Soccer is my favorite sport. I feel great when I score a goal for my team. What is your favorite sport? Write back soon. Tell me about yourself!

Sincerely,

Jacob
Character Web
Drafting Strategies

Wendy

I am seven years old.

I am in second grade.

I really like riding my bike.

My friends and I bike ride in the park.
1.a. I live in a city.
   b. I live in Trenton, the capital city of New Jersey.

2.a. I live with my parents, my older sister, and my two younger brothers.
   b. I live with my family.

3.a. Every Sunday evening my whole family stays at home to enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner.
   b. We have fun.

4.a. We all help.
   b. Mom and Dad make spaghetti, my brothers make a big salad, and my sister and I make cookies.

Answers: 1b, 2a, 3a, 4b

WRITING PROMPT: Think about a fun activity that you do with your family. Write a paragraph about that activity. Include at least three important details.
September 19 2---

Dear Josie

My name is Wendy. I am seven years old. I am in second grade. The thing I like to do best is ride my bike. We go bike riding in the park. Do you like to bike ride?

Write back soon. Tell me all about you!

Sincerely

Wendy
September 19 2---

Dear Josie

My name is Wendy. I am seven years old. I am in second grade. The thing I like to do best is ride my bike. We go bike riding in the park. Do you like to bike ride

Write back soon. Tell me all about you!

Sincerely

Wendy
September 19 2---

Dear Josie

My name is Wendy. I am seven years old. I am in second grade. The thing I like to do best is ride my bike. We go bike riding in the park. Do you like to bike ride?

Write back soon. Tell me all about you!

Sincerely

Wendy
September 9

Today was a great day! It was my first day of soccer practice. I was so excited. I went to the field right after school. It was a perfect day for soccer. The sun was shining. The air was cool and crisp. The first thing we did was meet the team. Then we practiced kicking and trapping the ball. The best part was taking shots at the goal. I was happy when I scored. At the end of practice, my new teammates gave me high fives.

The story is true and is written in the first person.
The writer uses sensory details.
The writer tells events in a logical sequence.
First
We went to the beach.

Next
Maggie and I made a sand castle. We collected shells.

Then
We ate dinner.

Last
We watched the fireworks.
Saturday was a very long day! I woke up early in the morning to go to soccer practice. Next, I went to the library to get some books for school. After the library, my mom took me to the supermarket to help with the grocery shopping. At the end of the day, we stopped by my dad’s business to say hello. The last thing I did on Saturday was say goodnight to my parents. It had been a long and busy day.

WRITING PROMPT: Think about what you did yesterday. Write a paragraph that tells about your day. Describe what you did in a logical sequence.
We went to the beach for my first 4th of July since moving to California! First maggie and I made a sand castle. We collected shells.

When it got late, we put on dry clothes. We ate our dinner. We waited until it was dark for the fireworks. I told Dad that watching sparkling fireworks at the beach is the best.
We went to the beach for my first 4th of July since moving to California! First maggie and I made a huge sand castle. We collected shells. 

When it got late, we put on dry clothes. We ate our dinner. We waited until it was dark for the fireworks. I told Dad that watching sparkling fireworks at the beach is the best.
We went to the beach for my first 4th of July since moving to California! First maggie and I made a sand castle. We collected shells. When it got late, we put on dry clothes. We ate our dinner. We waited until it was dark for the fireworks. I told Dad that watching sparkling fireworks at the beach is the best.

What a super day!
A Heroic Grandfather

Last summer, Grandpa Vijay and his granddaughter Sondra went camping. They spent a wonderful weekend hiking through Yellowstone National Park. Everywhere they went, there was green grass, bright blue sky, and many colorful birds.

As they left the park, Grandpa Vijay stopped to help another driver. The driver had a flat tire. He and his family had been stranded for two hours! After Grandpa Vijay fixed the tire, they thanked him for being kind enough to help a family in need.
Sequence Chart
Drafting Strategies

Aunt Dora takes the dogs at the shelter for a walk.

She gives the dogs a bath.

Aunt Dora gives the dogs food and water.

She is a hero to the dogs.
a. We were so tired that we took a nap.
b. After the fair, we went home.
c. Yesterday my family went to the “Around the World” fair.
d. We drove to the fair.
e. We played sports from Asia and Africa.

Answers: c, d, e, b, a

WRITING PROMPT: Think about what you did at school yesterday. Write a paragraph to describe your activities. Be sure to describe what you did in a logical sequence of events.
My Hero Aunt

My Aunt Dora helps out at a pet shelter in our town. The first thing Aunt Dora does is take the dogs for a walk. At the end of her visit, Aunt Dora gives each dog food and water. After their walk, Aunt Dora gives the dogs a bath. She gets very wet but says it is lots of fun! I am so proud of Aunt Dora. She is a hero to the dogs at the shelter.
My Hero Aunt

My Aunt Dora helps out at a pet shelter in our town.

The first thing Aunt Dora does is take the dogs for a walk.

At the end of her visit, Aunt Dora gives each dog food and water. After their walk, Aunt Dora gives the dogs a bath. She gets very wet but says it is lots of fun! I am so proud of Aunt Dora. She is a hero to the dogs at the shelter.
My Hero Aunt

My Aunt Dora helps out at a pet shelter in our town. The dogs bark and wag their tails when they see her.

The first thing Aunt Dora does is take the dogs for a walk. At the end of her visit Aunt Dora gives each dog food and water. After their walk, Aunt Dora gives the dogs a bath. She gets very wet but says it is lots of fun! I am so proud of Aunt Dora. She is a hero to the dogs at the shelter!
How to Help New Students

1. Walk up to the new students. **Tell the students your name** and ask for theirs, too.

2. Show the students important places in the school, **such as the nurse’s office, the restroom, and the cafeteria.**

3. Talk to the students at lunch so they won’t feel lonely. Ask the new students questions about what they like to do.

4. Introduce the new students to your friends.

The directions explain how to do something.

The writer uses numbers to organize the steps in a logical order.

Specific details help the reader follow the directions.
Drafting Strategies
Sequence Chart

First
Go to the library

Next
Ask for a library card

Then
Fill out the forms

Last
Borrow some great books
1. a. Get the watering can.
   
   b. Get the watering can from the kitchen counter.

2. a. Fill the watering can with water from the kitchen faucet.
   
   b. Fill the watering can.

3. a. Water the plants.
   
   b. Go into the living room and water the ferns on the table.

4. a. Put the watering can away.
   
   b. Put the watering can back in its place on the kitchen counter.

Answers: 1b, 2a, 3b, 4b

WRITING PROMPT: Think about something you do to help your family. Write directions that explain how to do that task. Include as many specific details as possible.
How to Apply for a Library Card

1. Go to the library with a grown-ups

2. Fill out the forms.

3. Tell a librarian that you would like a library card.

4. Use your new library card to borrow great books
How to Apply for a Library Card

1. Go to the library with a grown-ups

2. Fill out the forms. that the librarian gives you

3. Tell a librarian that you would like a library card.

4. Use your new library card to borrow great books
How to Apply for a Library Card

1. Go to the library with a grown-ups.

2. Fill out the forms.

3. Tell a librarian that you would like a library card.

4. Use your new library card to borrow great books.
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**Firefighters**

Firefighters save people from smoke and flames.
Firefighters show children what to do when there is a fire.

How do firefighters put out forest fires?
What tools do fire-safety workers use?
A Firefighter’s Tools and Equipment

Firefighters need special tools and equipment to battle fires and to keep safe. Firefighters wear large helmets to protect them from falling objects. They wear long coats and boots to keep them from getting burned or wet. Some firefighters may carry axes to help them open locked doors and break through walls.

Notes

special tools
helmets—protect from falling objects
long coats and boots—protect from fire and water
axes—break doors and windows
Example

a. Firefighting is a job.

b. Firefighters do an important job that helps many people.

Firefighting is a job. A firetruck has a siren. People see the flames on a fire. Firefighters put out fires. Firefighters sometimes save pets.

Possible Response: Firefighters do an important job that helps many people. When there is a big fire in a building, angry flames crackle and shoot out of the windows. To put out a fire, firefighters use hoses that spray lots of water. One firefighter rescued a small gray kitten from a burning building. The siren on a firetruck makes such a loud noise that many people cover their ears!

WRITING PROMPT: Think about an important place in your town. Write a paragraph to describe this place. Include as many precise words as possible.
Firefighters work at a fire house. They help keep us all safe from fire. They go to their trucks when they hear the bell. The trucks go to the fire. Then the firefighters use tools to put out the fire and rescue the people.
Firefighters

by Sanjay N.

Firefighters work at a fire house. They help keep us all safe from fire. They go to their trucks when they hear the bell. The trucks go to the fire. Then the firefighters use tools to put out the fire and rescue the people.
Firefighters work at a fire house. They help keep us all safe from fire. They go to their trucks when they hear the bell. The trucks go to the fire. Then the firefighters use tools—axes, hoses, and ladders—to put out the fire and rescue the people.
September 9
Dear Mrs. Nakamura,

Thank you for helping me when I fell off my bike yesterday. My knee got scraped very badly on the sidewalk. I am glad that you were outside in your garden and saw me fall. I am so thankful that you brought me a bandage to put on my knee. It was also very kind of you to walk me home to be sure I was safe. You are a terrific neighbor!

Sincerely,
Nina Cannato

The letter is written in the first person, using words like I and me.
The letter has specific details that describe why the writer is thankful. The details are written in a logical sequence.
The letter has a date, salutation, body, closing, and signature.
Thank you for rescuing the cat.

The cat got on the roof.

We were worried he would fall.

The neighbor got on the roof and got the cat.
I wrote a letter to my sister asking her to take care of my dog Chap while I was away at camp. She said she would feed and play with him. While I was at camp, I worried that she would forget to brush and walk Chap. When I got home, I saw that my sister had been a great dog-sitter. Chap was fed and brushed and walked. He was happy, and I was happy, too!

Answers: feed, play, brush, walk

WRITING PROMPT: Think about something a friend did to help you. Write a paragraph to describe that event. Be sure to vary the words you use in the paragraph.
Dear Mrs. Jimenez

Thank you for rescuing my cousin’s cat yesterday. Lenny is a curious cat. He climbed outside through an open window so he could explore our backyard. I cannot believe he was brave enough to climb up to our roof! I was worried that he would fall and get hurt. My family is so thankful that you brought him down safely. You are a very brave neighbor.

Ned Young
October 10, 2---

Dear Mrs. Jimenez

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Sincerely,

Ned Young
Grandma Isabel

My grandmother is a special person. Her name is Isabel Ramos. She was the first person in her family to go to college. That was where she met Grandpa Rick. After college, they got married and had two children. One of them was my dad!

Grandma Isabel always liked to invent things. After my dad was born, she invented a cradle that rocked and played music at the same time.

Grandma Isabel speaks softly, but people always listen. That’s because she is wise! I love to spend time with Grandma Isabel.
My grandfather, Ben, is an interesting man.

He was born in 1948 in California and has lived in ten states.

Grandpa Ben is a scientist and an inventor.

When he has a new idea, his eyes open wide and he speaks quickly.
1. a. Grandma Isabel is smart.  
   b. Grandma Isabel loves to invent new things.

2. a. Grandma Isabel drew a picture.  
   b. Grandma Isabel carefully drew a picture of her latest invention.

3. a. I never saw anything like it before!  
   b. I never saw anything like Grandma’s big, shiny invention before!

Answers: 1b: loves to invent new things; 2b: carefully, of her latest invention; 3b: Grandma’s big, shiny invention

WRITING PROMPT: Think about one of your friends. Write a paragraph to describe that friend. Include as many important details as you can.
**Grandpa Ben**

*by Michael O.*

My grandfather is an interesting man. He was born in 1948 in California. I was born in North Carolina. He married Grandma Lena when he was 24. They have four children.

He is a scientist and an inventor. He works in his lab. I always know when he has a new idea. He is my Grandpa Ben!
Grandpa Ben

by Michael O.

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He is a scientist and an inventor. He works in his lab. I always know when he has a new idea. He is my Grandpa Ben!
Guitar Lessons

Do you want to learn how to play guitar? If so, you should call Susie Sass—the best guitar teacher in our area. Susie has played guitar for 25 years, and has been a teacher for 10 years. Susie has also toured the world with her award-winning band.

Here are more reasons to call! Susie comes to your home. She guarantees you will play your first song after 3 lessons! Each lesson is only $30.00.

The writer states an opinion.
Lively words convince the reader.
The writer includes reasons and facts to support the opinion.
Main Idea
Attend the fourth-grade play.

Detail
It is the best play ever.

Detail
It is based on *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

Detail
It has singing and dancing.

Detail
You’ll have a great time.
1. a. A marching band plays loud and fast music!
   b. There is a band.

2. a. All the musicians in the band have fancy red velvet uniforms with gold trim.
   b. The band members have uniforms.

3. a. There are different instruments.
   b. The musicians play shiny golden trumpets, big round drums, and long silver flutes.

4. a. Hundreds of smiling people dance and sing as the marching band struts down the street.
   b. People have fun.

Answers: 1. a, 2. a, 3. b, 4. a

WRITING PROMPT: Think about a place you would like to visit. Write a letter to your parents to persuade them to let you visit that place. Include as many precise words as you can.
You are invited to see the fourth graders perform a play based on *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, written by L. Frank Baum. It has Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, and the Scarecrow acting in this play.

The show will be in the school auditorium on June 10 at 7:00 p.m. You’ll had a great time.
You are invited to see the fourth graders perform a play based on *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, written by L. Frank Baum. It has Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, and the Scarecrow acting in this play.

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The Smart Little Turtle

My name is Rocky. I am a little green turtle. My friends Priscilla and George are big white geese. We all live near Paddle Pond. One day, I noticed that the pond was drying up! We needed a new home. I told my friends to fly around and look for a new pond.

Priscilla and George flew away. Soon they returned and said they had found a big, beautiful pond where we could live. Priscilla and George took turns flying very slowly above me. They guided me to the new pond. It is terrific!

The story has characters that are animals.

The story has a beginning, middle, and end.

The writer describes story events in an order that makes sense.
Beginning
A sad dog followed me home.

Middle
My dad found out the dog had no home.

End
We kept the dog.
a. Then the chickens flapped their wings and squawked until the fox ran away.
b. Next, the chickens wanted to try something different, so they went to live in the woods.
c. First, two chickens decided living on a farm was boring.
d. Last, the chickens ran all the way back to the farm.
e. In the woods, a fox tried to catch the chickens.

Answers: 1. c; 2. b; 3. e; 4. a; 5. d

WRITING PROMPT: Think about some animals. Write a story about the animals. Be sure that the sequence of events in your story makes sense.
My dog story

One Monday, a sad dog followed me home after school.

He wagged his tail, but he did not look very happy. This dog kept following me for the next few days. Dad said my family could keep the dog. On Friday, my dad found out that the dog had no home. We named him Homer. I am happy we have a great new pet.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Do I Need to Know?</th>
<th>Where Can I Find the Information?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What tools does an artist use to make an ice sculpture?</td>
<td>nonfiction books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where do artists learn how to paint and sculpt?</td>
<td>encyclopedia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long does it take to create a painting?</td>
<td>online articles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What Is a Mosaic?

A mosaic is a picture or a pattern made out of small pieces of glass, stones, ceramic tiles, or paper. The ancient Greeks and Romans used mosaics to decorate floors and walls.

How Do Artists Make Mosaics?

First, artists choose where they want to create their mosaic. Some artists cover the surface with cement and then press the pieces of glass or the tiles into the cement. Other artists put glue on the back of each piece and then set it in place.

1. Where would you look to find out how mosaics are made?

2. If you were looking for information about a specific mosaic, would this source be the best place to look?
WRITING PROMPT: How do you like to express yourself creatively? Write a paragraph that describes why you like to sing, dance, sculpt, draw, or write. Be sure to start your paragraph with a strong opening.
Ice Sculpture

by Miguel R.

How would you like to work inside a freezer I think it would be too cold for me. Some artists create incredible works of art by sculpting ice. The sculptor starts with a big block of ice. it can take many hours to create, but the finished sculpture may only last a few hours before it melts. An ice sculptor begins by using a saw to cute away sections of ice. he uses smaller cutting tools to carve the ice. The sculptor uses a gas torch to clean of the ice shavings.
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An ice sculptor begins by using a saw to cut away sections of ice. He uses smaller cutting tools called chisels to carve the ice. For the last step, the sculptor uses a gas torch to clean off the ice shavings.
2 Wildwood Road  
Manlius, New York 13104  
May 1, 20——

Dear Principal Gupta,

Our school should have a band. There are many children who play instruments but never get to play together. Children do better in school when they are involved in music programs. Since Edison School has a very successful band, our school should, too!

Sincerely,

George D.
Main Idea
The mayor should not increase the speed limit on Main Street.

Detail
It is not safe for our town.

Detail
Speeding cars are dangerous.

Detail
A fast car won’t be able to stop in time.

Detail
Speeding cars can hurt animals crossing the street.
March 7, 2---

Dear Renee,

I think that we should go hiking. Hiking is so much fun! It’s the best way to explore the area. There are plenty of great places to stop and see the beautiful scenery, such as the mountains and the lake.

Sincerely,
Nicola

Which sentence is the best conclusion for this letter?
A Hiking is fun.
B Hiking is a fantastic way to see plants and animals you’ve never even dreamed about!
C Bring comfortable shoes.

WRITING PROMPT: Write a letter that persuades the reader to do something. Be sure to end your letter with a strong conclusion.
Dear Mayor tan

Why are you increasing the speed limit. I don’t think this is good for our town.

Speeding cars are dangerous. Speeding cars could hurt wild animals and pets. Cars are going too fast. Cars won’t be able to stop in time to let an animal finish crossing the street. We have to keep animals safe. I think the speed limit should stay low.

Anthony P.
Dear Mayor tan

Why are you increasing the speed limit. I don’t think this is good for our town.

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Speeding cars are dangerous. Speeding cars could hurt wild animals and pets. Cars are going too fast. Cars won’t be able to stop in time to let an animal finish crossing the street. We have to keep animals safe. I think the speed limit should stay low.

12 Elm Street
Raleigh, NC 34567
December 16, 20--

Sincerely,

Anthony P.
Summer Fun

Summer’s here and school is done.

My sister shouts, “Let’s have some fun!”

The yellow sun fills up the sky.

A shiny beach ball catches my eye.

We hear the waves go “Crash! Crash!”

We jump high and land with a splash.

The salty spray tickles my nose

And cold, wet sand covers my toes.

I can’t think of a better way

To spend a beautiful summer day!
Sunday

rainy day

tea party with my mom

snacks and iced tea

couldn’t go outside, nothing to do
1. a. The author wrote a story.
   b. The famous author wrote a fascinating fairy tale about mice.

2. a. The imaginative painter created five colorful paintings.
   b. The man painted pictures.

3. a. The book was interesting.
   b. The unusual book was so interesting that I couldn’t stop reading it.

4. a. The movie was boring.
   b. The endless movie dragged on so long that I fell asleep.

Answers: 1b: famous, fascinating, fairy tale; 2a: imaginative painter, five colorful paintings; 3b: unusual, that I couldn’t stop reading it; 4b: endless, dragged on so long I fell asleep

WRITING PROMPT: Think about your favorite story. Write a paragraph to describe this story. Include as many precise words as you can to describe the characters, setting, and plot.
Tea Party

by Brittany H.

It is sunday, What should we do
Mom said she had a idea.
We will eat snacks and drink iced tea.
We will serve each other.
What a wonderful thing to do
On an sunday for just us two.
It is Sunday. What should we do?

Mom said she had an idea.

We will eat snacks and drink iced tea.

We will serve each other.

What a wonderful thing to do

On a gloomy Sunday for just us two.
It is Sunday. What should we do?

Mom said she had an idea. We will eat snacks and drink iced tea. We will serve each other.

What a wonderful thing to do on a Sunday for just us two.
Cooking for a Crowd

Last month, my parents hosted a family reunion. Aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents came from all over the country to spend the weekend together. Our biggest challenge was the barbecue. We had to cook mountains of food for all our relatives. On Friday, my cousins and I made tons of potato salad. On Saturday, my father and his brothers took turns making burgers at the grill. My mom and grandmother spent two whole days making desserts. I am proud that all our hard work made the barbecue on Saturday night a big success!
First
We picked up pieces of paper and cans.

Next
The class threw away garbage.

Last
We put all the trash in bags.
(1) My mom and I built a beautiful birdhouse. (2) On Saturday morning, my mom and I went to the hardware store to buy some wood. (3) When we got home, she taught me how to trace shapes onto the wood. (4) We had cheese sandwiches for lunch. (5) Next, my mom cut out the shapes I had drawn on the wood. (6) Mom and I worked together to nail together the pieces. (7) The last step was painting the birdhouse a bright shade of blue. (8) My favorite color is green. (9) The birdhouse looks great hanging in our backyard.

Responses: The main idea is in sentence 1. Sentences 4 and 8 do not support the main idea and should be deleted.

WRITING PROMPT: Think about a time you and your friends worked together to build something. Write a paragraph to describe that experience. Be sure to write a paragraph with a clear topic sentence and many supporting details.
Teamwork in the Park

last month my whole class worked together to clean up the town playground. Pieces of paper covered the ground. Al fifteen students worked as a team. It took more than four hours to get the job done i am glad there were so many people to sweep. The playground is now a clean and fun place for kids to play!
Teamwork in the Park

last month my whole class worked together to clean up the town playground. Pieces of paper covered the ground. Al fifteen students worked as a team. It took more than four hours to get the job done i am glad there were so many people to sweep. Thanks to teamwork, The playground is now a clean and fun place for kids to play!
last month my whole class worked together to clean up the town playground. Pieces of paper covered the ground. All fifteen students worked as a team. It took more than four hours to get the job done. I am glad there were so many people to sweep. Thanks to teamwork, the playground is now a clean and fun place for kids to play!
Cross the Street Safely

It's important to stay safe when walking. Crossing at crosswalks is one way I stay safe. Crosswalks tell drivers to slow down for people. I look both ways before crossing, even at a crosswalk. Last Tuesday, I walked without looking. A car came around a corner. It had to stop really fast at the crosswalk. Cross safely! Cross at crosswalks! Look both ways!

The writer states an opinion.

Reasons support the opinion.

The writer uses first-person pronouns.

The writer asks readers to agree and act.
Drafting Strategies

Main Idea
Wearing a bike helmet is important.

Detail
I fell off my bike last week.

Detail
I hit my head on the street.

Detail
I love riding my bike fast.

Detail
My helmet keeps my head safe.
1. a. Be safe there.
   b. Follow these rules to keep your family safe at home.

Don’t cook in the kitchen unless there’s a grown-up to help you. Otherwise you might have an accident or start a fire. Always pick up your toys, so that no one trips on them and gets hurt.

2. a. Keep pets safe.
   b. These three tips will keep your pet safe from harm!

Give your pets a safe place to live. Do not leave any medicines or cleaners where your pet can reach them. Make sure your outside doors stay closed so that your pet doesn’t sneak outside!

Answers: 1. b; 2. b

WRITING PROMPT: Think about why teamwork is helpful for police officers. Write an essay that persuades other community helpers to work together. Be sure to start your essay with a strong opening.
Wear Your Bike Helmet

by Jay F.

I loves riding my bike really fast, but I have learned how to be safe. Wear a bike helmet every time you ride. Just last week I fell off my bike. My head hit the street. What would have happened if I hadn’t worn my helmet I hates to think about it! My helmet keep me from geting really hurt. So be safe! Wear your bike helmet each time you ride!
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Many different people work in a hospital. 

What happens when you go to the hospital for an operation? 
Which workers do you see?
Who Do You See Before an Operation?

When you need an operation, you have an appointment to check into the hospital and get ready for the surgery. First you see someone at the reception desk, who takes your personal information. Then you see a nurse who helps you get ready. The nurse may ask you and your parents some questions about your health, and find out if you’re allergic to anything. You also might get an exam to check your temperature, heart rate, and blood pressure.

Notes

first— see reception and give personal information

next— see a nurse
    helps you get ready
    asks questions about your health
    gives you an exam
Part A

(A) I went to the third floor to see Dr. Harris. (B) I went to Summit Hospital on North Street. (C) Dr. Harris told me that I am very healthy.

First, ________________________________.

Next, ________________________________.

Last, ________________________________.

Part B

(A) I went to the hospital. (B) I broke my leg. (C) I fell off my bicycle.

Teacher: Display the transparency and cover up the answers.

Part A: First, (B); Next, (A); Last, (C). Part B: First, (C); Next, (B); Last, (A).

WRITING PROMPT: Think about what you did to get ready for school today. Write a paragraph to describe how you got ready. Be sure to make the sequence of events clear by using time-order words.
Getting an Operation

by Margaret L.

When you need an operation, you have to check into the hospital. Hospital food doesn’t taste very good. You see a nurse who helps you get ready. First you see someone at the front desk. that person takes your personal information. The nurse mai give you an exam You see a doctor who helps you fall into a deep sleep. He or she gives you medicine that helps you stay asleep until the operation is over. You see the doctor and nurses who will do your operation?
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April 23, 2---

Dear Henri,

I am so glad that you can watch my dog Spot while I am away at camp. Here is what you need to do to keep Spot happy. First, feed Spot one small can of wet food and one scoop of dry food each day. Next, be sure to fill Spot’s water bowl every morning. Then, take Spot for a walk in the morning and the afternoon. Finally, brush Spot once a week.

Thanks for your help!

Sincerely,

Stephanie

The letter includes important details that describe exactly what the reader must do to take care of Spot.

The directions are organized in a logical sequence that is easy to follow.

The letter has a date, salutation, body, closing, and signature.
1. Feed Fred.

2. Give Fred water.

3. Brush Fred.

4. Give Fred love.
1. a. Puppies need food.
   b. Puppies need special food with lots of vitamins.

2. a. It’s good to brush puppies every day.
   b. Do good things for puppies.

3. a. Give your puppy a drink.
   b. Give your puppy fresh water to drink.

4. a. Give your puppy a bed to sleep in.
   b. Your puppy will sleep.

5. a. Have toys and bones for puppies to play with.
   b. Have things for puppies to play with.

**Answers:** 1. b, 2. a, 3. b, 4. a, 5. a

**WRITING PROMPT:** What is your special job in the classroom? Write a letter in which you explain to someone how to do your job. Be sure to include a specific detail in each step of your directions.
Talia

Thank you for taking care of my cat Fred while I am away. Taking care of Fred is easy! Starting tomorrow, give Fred food each day. We already gave him food today. Fred needs water each morning, too. Please brush Fred’s fur. Give him plenty of hugs.

thanks for your help.

Kim
Dear Talia

March 2, 2013

Thank you for taking care of my cat Fred while I am away. Taking care of Fred is easy! Starting tomorrow, give Fred food each day. We already gived him food today. Fred needs water each morning, too. Please brush Fred’s fur. Give him plenty of hugs.

thanks for your help.

Sincerely

Kim
Dear Talia,

Thank you for taking care of my cat Fred while I am away. Taking care of Fred is easy! Starting tomorrow, give Fred food each day. We already gave him food today. Fred needs water each morning, too. Please brush Fred’s fur. Give him plenty of hugs.

thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Kim

March 2, 20--
School Talent Show

The annual Wolf Elementary School Talent Show will take place on May 12! Please join us for a show of Wolf Elementary’s best performers. The show starts at 8 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Come see our students sing, dance, act, and tell jokes! Delicious refreshments will be served at intermission and after the show.

Contact Ms. Julia for more information.
Event
Community Field Day

1 PM June 18 on the football field
all students and their families
contact Ms. Cahill

sack races, balloon toss, obstacle course, picnic

Writing Transparency 116 © Macmillan/McGraw-Hill
Vary Words

1. We hung a lot of stuff in a lot of rooms.

2. The food was hot.

3. We brought something to the party.

4. The food was nice.

Possible responses: 1. Marco and I hung streamers, balloons, and signs throughout the house. 2. Steam poured out of the burritos, tacos, and quesadillas that had just come out of the oven. 3. I brought gifts, decorations, and favors to the special celebration. 4. The food was delicious and satisfying.

WRITING PROMPT: Think about a fun event you have attended. Write a descriptive flyer for that event using a variety of interesting words.
Community Field Day!

by Lynn M.

The Field Day will take place on June 18.

Please join us for a day filled with activities and food. The fun starts at the school’s football field.

The event is open to all students and their families. Take part in sack races a water balloon toss and an obstacle course! a picnic will follow the games dont miss this event

Contact Ms. Cahill for more information.
Community Field Day!

by Lynn M.

The Field Day will take place on June 18.

Please join us for a day filled with exciting activities and food. The fun starts at 1 p.m. at the school’s football field.

The event is open to all students and their families. Take part in sack races a water balloon toss and an obstacle course! a picnic will follow the games dont miss this event

Contact Ms. Cahill for more information.
Community Field Day!

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Contact Ms. Cahill for more information.
How to See a Stem Work

1. Gather together a glass of water, a white flower, and food coloring.
2. Put a white flower in the glass of water.
3. Put 5 drops of food coloring in the water.
4. Check the flower’s petals to see how they change.

This how-to poster clearly explains how to do something.

The instructions on the poster are organized into a logical sequence of steps.

The writer uses numbers to show the order the steps should be performed.
Step 1
Get seeds, pot and soil, water.

Step 2
Make two holes that are two inches apart and one inch deep.

Step 3
Put two seeds in each hole. Cover them.

Step 4
Put it in a sunny place. Water it every 4 days. Watch it grow.
Main Idea: Making a Vegetable Garden

1.a. Pick a sunny place for your garden.
   b. Take the dog for a walk around the garden.
2.a. Wash, dry, and wear your shirt.
   b. Dig the garden.
3.a. Buy, plant, and water the seeds.
   b. Make a sandwich for lunch.
4.a. Watch a funny show on television.
   b. Watch the plants grow.

Answers: 1a, 2b, 3a, 4b

WRITING PROMPT: Think about a chore you do at home. Write a set of step-by-step directions to explain how to do that chore. Be sure to include important details in your directions.
How to Grow Marigolds

You will need marigold seeds a pot with soil and water.

1. Make two holes in the soil. Make each hole one inch deep.
2. Put two seeds in each hole. cover them with soil.
3. Water it about every four days. Watch your marigolds grow
4. Put the pot in a suney place.
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4. Put the pot in a sunny place.
A Rainy Day

When I woke up and saw the rain, I jumped out of bed.

“Dad, it’s raining,” I said.

“Sorry, Paula,” he said. “Your soccer game was called off because of the rain.” I sat down and poured some cereal into a bowl, but I didn’t feel like eating.

Dad passed part of the newspaper to me. It showed movies playing near us.

So instead of playing soccer, I went to the movies with Dad. It was a fun day after all.

The story is realistic. It could happen in real life.

There is a plot with a clear beginning, middle, and end.

Dialogue shows what the characters say.
Flowchart Drafting Strategies

Beginning
I forgot about my science project.

Middle
I talked to my mother about it and then worked in the garden.

End
I came up with a good idea for my science project.
a. When fall came, the seeds had grown into giant orange pumpkins!
b. We watered the rows of plants every day to help them grow.
c. Mom cut up one pumpkin and used it to bake a delicious pumpkin pie!
d. Our whole family decided to grow pumpkins.
e. We carefully planted the pumpkin seeds in neat rows.

Answers: 1. d; 2. e; 3. b; 4. a; 5. c

WRITING PROMPT: Think about your favorite outdoor activity. Write a story about that activity. Be sure to include a logical sequence of events in your story.
The Garden Project

by Lydia P.

Mom and I were working in the garden when I remembered my science project. “Oh no! I need an idea for my science project,” I told her. It’s due next week.

“Why don’t you think about it,” Mom said.

I ran over to me mother and said, “My project idea is all set I will show seeds!”

As I watered the garden, I looked at the different plants. I noticed that the plants had grown since we planted it last month.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Possible Resources</th>
<th>Answers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What can fossils tell us about plants and animals that lived long ago?</td>
<td>Nonfiction books about fossils</td>
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<tr>
<td>How do people find fossils?</td>
<td>Online articles about archaeologists</td>
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All About Fossils

What Are Fossils?
Fossils are the remains or traces of ancient life. Fossils can be bones, teeth, shells, or wood. Eggs, nests, footprints, leaf impressions, and burrows are examples of trace fossils.

Where Are Fossils?
Every plant and animal eventually dies. If it gets buried and preserved, a fossil is formed. Wherever you are, you may be standing on a fossil.

How to Look for Fossils
Look for unusual shapes and objects that are different from the rock around them. Look in places where rock has been worn away.
I took good walking shoes. When I looked for fossils I had to walk over rocky ground. I took a cell phone so I could call my friends. I had a small hammer to help me chip away rock around a fossil. A magnifier helped me to see the fossils.

WRITING PROMPT: Think about one of your hobbies. Write a strong paragraph about that hobby. Be sure your paragraph includes a topic sentence and supporting details.
Kinds of Fossils

by Pedro M.

Fossils are traces of life from long ago. One kind of fossil is when remains of living things have turned to stone. Another kind of fossil is a mold. This happens when a living thing is buried in mud or clay. Later it rots, but the sape is left. One kind of fossil is a print. These can be animal tracks that were press into stone long ago. Then they turned into stone. I can make footprints in the mud, too. One kind is when a whole animal or plant is saved this happens in ice or tar.
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35 Old Orchard Lane
Portland, Oregon 97201
October 19, 2---

Dear Chrissy,

I have very exciting news! My baby sister was born today. My parents named her Rose because that was our grandma’s name. Rose’s toes and fingers are tiny like a doll’s! Her hair is brown like mine. Rose’s eyes are blue, but Mom says they might change. I can’t wait for you to see my new baby sister.

Your best friend,

Maria

The letter begins with the date and a greeting.

Descriptive details in the body inform the reader about an event in the writer’s life.

The letter ends with a closing and signature.
My new puppy, Murphy

- Got Murphy as gift
- Murphy has grown so much.
- Murphy snores.
- Murphy too big to sleep on bed.
- Murphy is getting heavy.
Example

a. Her puppy walked with us.

b. Her tiny puppy ran with us.

I walked next to Mary. Her puppy walked with us. We saw autumn leaves. We saw yellow butterflies. I saw a duck. I saw a spider’s web.

Possible response: I walked slowly next to Mary. Her tiny puppy ran with us. We saw red autumn leaves. Bright yellow butterflies flew everywhere. I spotted a huge duck and a very fancy spider’s web.

WRITING PROMPT: Think about what you did yesterday afternoon. Write a paragraph to describe what you did. Be sure to use a variety of interesting and lively words.
Max

it was nice to see you at my birthday party. My parents gift was nice. The puppy they gave me has grown so much. At first, Murphy slept in my bed. Now he’s so big that he’s on the floor. Even Murphys snore is big.

See you soon!

Carlos
Dear Max,

it was nice to see you at my birthday party. My parents' gift was nice. The puppy they gave me has grown so much. At first Murphy slept in my bed. Now he's so big that he's on the floor. Even Murphy's snore is big!

See you soon!

Your friend,

Carlos
Dear Max,

It was nice to see you at my birthday party. My parents' gift was nice. The puppy they gave me has grown so much. At first, Murphy slept in my bed. Now he's so big that he's on the floor. Even Murphy's snore is big!

See you soon!

Your friend,

Carlos
A Report on *I Am a Walrus*

*I Am a Walrus* by J. Paul George is a story of the life of a walrus, from pup to adult. The walrus lives in the Arctic Ocean. It is the only seal that has tusks. The tusks are ivory and can grow more than three feet long! The walrus can weigh almost 3000 pounds!

If you’re someone who likes reading about interesting animals, read *I Am a Walrus*.

The writer starts the book report by listing the book’s title and author.

The writer tells about the book’s topic and includes a few interesting details.

The book report has a strong conclusion that tells who else might like to read this book.
Animals of the Sea and Shore
by Ann O. Squire
Animals that live in or near the ocean

interesting details:
1. some live in water
2. some live on shore

unusual facts—sea otters sleep on backs in water

recommend to anyone who likes learning about creatures that live by the water
I. a. I am glad I read There’s a Bear!

b. If you’re interested in learning more about bears, pick up a copy of There’s a Bear!

A Report on There’s a Bear!

By Janice Bakerman

There’s a Bear! by Janice Bakerman tells about bears that live on a mountain in New York State. It tells how the bears look and what they do. The bears are black, and their ears look kind of rounded. The male bears can weigh more than 300 pounds. The bears sleep all winter. They don’t wake up until April. Then they spend lots of time looking for food.

WRITING PROMPT: Think about the story Nutik, the Wolf Pup. Write a short book report about that story. Include a strong conclusion that lets readers know how you feel about the story.
My Book Report  
*by Jan O.*

I read *Animals of the sea and shore* by Ann O. Squire. I really liked it. The book is about many animals that live in or near the water. Some animals, like whales, live in the water. Other animals live on the shore, like snails.

I also learned some unusual facts. Did you know that sea otters sleep floating on their backs? If you like learning about the things that live by the water, you'll like *Animals of the Sea and Shore.*
My Book Report

by Jan O.

I read Animals of the Sea and Shore by Ann O. Squire. I really liked it. The book is about many animals that live in or near the water. Some animals, like whales, live in the water. Other animals, like snails, live on the shore. I also learned some unusual facts. Did you know that sea otters sleep floating on their backs? If you like learning about ocean creatures, you'll like Animals of the Sea and Shore.
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I also learned some unusual facts. Did you know that sea otters sleep floating on their backs? If you like learning about the things that live by the water, you'll like Animals of the Sea and Shore.
May 25, 2---

Dear Sunil,

How was your trip to the mountains? Did you have a good time?

My parents and I just got back from our trip to the rain forest in Costa Rica. **Everything in the forest is a bright, emerald green.** Many of the trees are so tall that I could not see their tops. **The birds are so colorful that they look like rainbows flying overhead.**

I hope your trip was just as fun!

Sincerely,

Derek

The writer includes the date at the top.

The salutation comes right before the letter’s body.

The writer uses strong details to describe this habitat.

The letter ends with a closing and signature.
My Trip to the Desert

- very hot air
- tall cactus with many spines
- very dry ground
1. The Rocky Mountains are tall.

2. There are lots of trees in the mountains.

3. We took a hike.

4. Our picnic was tasty.

5. We saw some animals.

Possible responses: 1. The Rocky Mountains are so tall that their tops are hidden by clouds. 2. The mountains are covered with spruce, fir, and pine trees. 3. My parents and I hiked a three-mile trail before lunch. 4. Our picnic was made of tasty sandwiches and sweet lemonade. 5. As we walked back to our campsite, we saw an elk, a chipmunk, and a squirrel.

WRITING PROMPT: Write a letter to a friend describing a place you have been. Include important details in your letter to help readers visualize the place.
dear Cheryl

How is your summer? Mine has been good so far!

Last weekend, my dad took me to a desert. The air was hot. The ground was really dry the most amazing thing I saw was a cactus. The cactus was ten feet tall my dad and I had a nice time.

i will send you pictures soon

Maria
dear Cheryl

How is your summer? Mine has been fantastic so far!

Last weekend, my dad took me to a desert. The air was hot. The ground was so dry that it shimmered so that there were cracks in it! The most amazing thing I saw was a cactus. The cactus was ten feet tall. It was covered with hundreds of spines. Terrific!

i will send you pictures soon

Sincerely,

Maria
dear Cheryl

How is your summer? Mine has been good so far!

Last weekend, my dad took me to a desert. The air was hot. The ground was really dry. The most amazing thing I saw was a cactus. The cactus was ten feet tall. My dad and I had a nice time.

I will send you pictures soon.

Sincerely,

Maria
Bats’ Needs

Since bats are active at night, they need a safe place to sleep during the day. Some bats sleep in large groups, called colonies, in caves. Other bats make homes in tree hollows. Some bats are so tiny that they can sleep in the cracks in large rocks. In the summer, some bats try to roost, or sleep, in people’s homes.
Chimps use tools to get food.

- They use rocks to open nuts.
- They use sticks to get termites.
I. a. I also have a cat.

b. My dog can do tricks.

My dog Bella is smart. I taught her to stand up on her back legs. When I throw a ball, she runs and brings it back. Bella likes to do her tricks in front of other people!

WRITING PROMPT: Think about something interesting that an animal can do. Write a paragraph that explains what the animal can do. Be sure to start your paragraph with a strong topic sentence.
Chimps Need Tools

by Jewel W.

Chimps need simple tools to get nuts, fruits, seeds, and all kinds of food. They also eat insects like termites. A tool can be something from nature. In Africa, chimps use rocks to crack open nuts other chimps use sticks to get termites from termite hills. The chimps eat the termites, too.
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Some animals are in danger because people have cut down the forests where they live.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I Know</th>
<th>What I Want to Know</th>
<th>What I Learned</th>
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Some animals are in danger because people have cut down the forests where they live. What are the names of some endangered animals? Where do they live? Why are they disappearing? What can people do to help them?
How Are Humans Endangering Animals?

There are several things humans do that threaten the lives of some animals. People cut down forests that provide homes for animals. Every year, humans cut down almost 50 million acres of tropical rain forests. Some animals are in danger because people want them as pets. It is estimated that more than seven million wild birds are trapped and sold every year. Many of the birds die. In some places, animals are endangered because people have polluted their food or water. Pesticides and other chemicals can make animals sick or even kill them.

Notes

Ways people endanger animals

1. take away land
2. trap them as pets
3. pollute their food and water
Choose the best topic sentence to complete the paragraph.

a. Giant pandas eat bamboo.
b. The giant panda is an endangered species because people are destroying its habitat.

c. Pandas live in a few small mountainous areas in China. The areas are so small that it can be hard for pandas to find enough bamboo to eat. The government in China is trying to help save the giant panda from extinction. The government does not allow people to destroy any more of the pandas’ forest homes.

WRITING PROMPT: Think about something you can do to help save our planet. Write a paragraph to describe how you will help preserve our environment. Your paragraph should include a strong topic sentence and at least two supporting details.
Asian Elephants

by Liu H.

Asian elephants used to live in forests. Humans cut down the forests to make room for their towns. The elephants had to move to the mountains. They had a hard time finding food to eat. These elephants are really big! The Asian elephant is one example of an endangered animal. There are several reasons why these animals are endangered. A second reason that Asian elephants are endangered is because they are not allowed to migrate. An adult elephant needs to eat a lot of food every day. Farmers do not want the elephants to trample their crops. They force the animals to stay in one small area of land and the elephants run out of food.
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Fog and Smog

Did you know that fog and smog are both clouds that form close to the ground? Both fog and smog are fine droplets of water vapor hanging in the air. But smog has something extra mixed in. Smoke and other harmful things in the air mix with fog to form smog. The word smog is made from the sm- of smoke and the -og from fog.

The author starts the paragraph with a question to grab readers’ attention.

The paragraph tells about two things: fog and smog. It tells how they are alike using the word both. It tells how they are different using the word but.
To rain, the temperature must be above freezing.

To snow, the temperature must be below freezing.

Both kinds of weather part of the water cycle come from clouds that have too much water fall to Earth.
1. During a thunderstorm, rain falls.

2. During a thunderstorm, lightning flashes in the sky.

What happens during a thunderstorm? During a thunderstorm, rain falls. During a thunderstorm, lightning flashes in the sky.

Hailstones are made of ice. Hailstones fall like rain. What can hailstones do? They can do a lot! Hailstones can damage buildings. Hailstones can damage crops.

WRITING PROMPT: Think about two different storms that you have seen. Write a paragraph to compare and contrast those storms. Be sure to vary the lengths and types of sentences in your writing.
Rain and Snow

by Pedro V.

Rain is a kind of weather. Snow is a kind of weather. They give living things the water they need. Rain and snow form because of the water cycle. When clouds have too much water, the water falls to Earth as rain or snow. The big difference between snow and rain is temperature. It must be below freezing for snow to fall. If it is warmer than freezing, it rains.
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Who Needs a Nap?

Characters: Cat, Mouse, Dog

Cat: Oh, a bed. I will take a nap.

Mouse: Oh, a furry pillow. I will climb under it and take a nap.

Dog: Oh, a furry pillow on a bed. I will take a nap.

Mouse: This pillow is too heavy. I need a new place to nap.

Cat: A mouse! I will chase it!

Dog: Oh no! My pillow was a cat! I will chase it!

Mouse: I guess no one gets a nap today!
Drafting Strategies
Sequence Chart

**Beginning**

Sun and Wind are the characters.
They are arguing.

**Middle**

Wind and Sun each try to get
Man to take off his coat.

**End**

Man takes off his coat when Sun
makes it warm. Sun wins.
A. ______ Dog: Well, that doesn’t seem fair at all.
    ______ Dog: Can you please teach me how to fly?
    ______ Bird: Silly dog, you can’t fly without wings!

B. ______ Fire: What do you mean stop? Burning is all I know how to do.
    ______ Water: All right, go ahead and burn, but don’t do it near me!
    ______ Water: I’m boiling hot. Can’t you stop burning?

C. ______ Snow: Wow, and I thought I was cold.
    ______ Ice: I’m really freezing!
    ______ Snow: How are you feeling, Ice?

Answers: A: 3, 1, 2; B: 2, 3, 1; C: 3, 2, 1

WRITING PROMPT: Write a play about two animals who meet in a garden. Be sure to include a logical sequence of events in the play.
Sun and Wind

by Joe M.

Narrator: Wind and Sun are fighting loudly.

Wind: i am stronger than you, Sun.

Sun: No, you’re not, Wind. Prove it.

Wind: Do you see that man? Whoever makes him take off his coat is stronger. I’ll go first.

Brrrr. The wind is cold. I will button up my coat to keep warm.

Wind: I give up. Your turn, Sun.

Man: The sun is out. now it is warm. I will take off this heavy coat.

Wind: The wind is cold. I will button up my coat to keep warm.

You win, Sun. you are stronger.
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Characters: Narrator, Wind, Sun, Man

Narrator: Wind and Sun are fighting loudly.

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