



Course Outline

Align your instruction to Common Core State Standards as you learn how to teach narrative writing to third through fifth-grade students. In this hands-on course participants will become familiar with the structure of writing workshop. This structure includes using picture books to teach and guiding students through a process that involves gathering ideas, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Watch videos that illustrate the writing process. Create your own piece of writing and gain ideas for teaching students how to create and revise meaningful, well-written personal stories. The course includes a booklist and a list of helpful websites.

Goals and Purpose

Session 1—What Is Narrative Writing?

- Learn what narrative writing *is* and *is not* in order to identify the genre for your students.
- Analyze the genre, gaining an understanding of the structure and the craft involved in writing narrative.
- Acquire vocabulary related to narrative writing so that your students internalize it.
- Answer essential questions about teaching narrative writing so that you can help students understand why we tell stories.

Session 2—Gathering Ideas

- Read mentor texts, using them to get ideas for your own stories.
- Draft your own narratives, including stories about a turning point, or first time, or important memory.
- Learn how to use your own writing to teach and inspire students.

Session 3—Choosing and Developing an Idea with Significance in Mind

- Choose a piece of writing you want to develop, thinking about the meaning you want to convey to readers.
- Reflect on the importance of your narrative, and how to express your meaning.
- Use your own writing to help students unearth meaningful, true stories from their lives.

Session 4—Planning and Drafting

- Work with a partner to plan and rehearse your writing, so that you can teach students how to work in partnership.
- Draft your story, using tips gained from working with fellow writers.

Session 5—Revision

- Learn how to use mentor text to teach revision techniques such as elaboration, good beginnings, and satisfying endings.

Session 6—Editing: Using Punctuation in Meaningful Ways

- Study writing with an eye on meaningful punctuation.
- Teach your students how to use punctuation to express voice and meaning.

Session 7—Sharing Our Stories with the World

- Learn why it's so important to share stories.
- Plan for new ways to have your students share with a wider audience.

Session 8—Summary of Learning and Planning for Teaching

- Sum up your learning and make a plan for how to use this course to teach narrative writing.

Throughout the course, opportunities are provided for teachers to connect their learning across sessions and to explicitly consider the implications of that learning for classroom practice. Teachers will also be able to revisit their work and reflections by viewing their individual Course Portfolios.

About Accelerated Literacy Learning

This course was developed by content experts from Accelerated Literacy Learning (A.L.L.). A.L.L. provides institutes, workshops, onsite, and online professional development. If you and your colleagues would like more information about customized professional development with one of our many consultants, including Constance Foland, please contact A.L.L. director, Susan Radley Brown at www.acceleratedliteracylearning.com.